

BULLETIN

October 2004

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

Volume 9 04-05#1

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 6 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 282 East Riding Dr. Carlisle (Barbara Lewis) 9:00 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 17 Sun **LWVCC Candidates Forum, CCHS Auditorium** 3:00-5:00 PM
 21 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:00 AM
 30 Sat **LWVM Fall Conference "Our Choices, Our Future – Vote 2004"** 9 Register; 9:30 Keynote
 Quincy Marriott Hotel, Marriott Drive, Quincy

NOVEMBER

- 2 Tues National and Statewide Election Day Polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 64 Strawberry Hill Rd. (Susan Sekuler) 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 9 Tues Carlisle Special Town Meeting, Corey Auditorium 7:00 PM
 16 Tues Carlisle Special Town Election (if needed)
 18 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Garden 9:00 AM

DECEMBER

- 1 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting & Member Holiday Potluck, 9:00 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes) 12:00 potluck lunch
 4 Sat Concord Town coordination meeting, Town House 8:00 AM

JANUARY

- 5 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 41 Canterbury Ct. Carlisle (Cindy Nock) 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 ?? LWVCC Member Breakfast, Colonial Inn
 19 Wed LWVCC Open Meeting, TBA
 20 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:00 AM
 31 Mon Concord Town Caucus, Alcott School Auditorium

FEBRUARY

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 17 Munroe Pl. (Barbara Anthony) 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 13 Sun **LWVCC Local Candidates Forum (snow date Feb 17)** 3:00 PM
 17 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:00 AM

MARCH

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd. (Anne Hayden) 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 13 Wed LWVCC Local Program Planning Meeting 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 17 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:00 AM
 29 Tues Concord Town Election Polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
 30 Wed **LWVCC Local Issue Open Meeting, TBA**
LWVM Day on The Hill, TBA

APRIL

- 6 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 229 Musketaquid Rd. (Erica Morrison) 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
 13 Wed LWVCC Local Program Planning Meeting 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board and Observer Corps meetings.
 Contact Susan Sekuler or Cindy Nock for Board meeting location.*

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Susan Sekuler, Co-Presidents, LWVCC

Dear LWVCC Members,

It's hard to believe that fall is here, but the trees on Cambridge Turnpike don't lie, so it's time to get moving on what is promising to be a very active League Year.

Our first event of the season, the **West Concord Family Fest Parade and Booth**, was a fun way to circulate information about voting and to raise the League's visibility in the community. A dozen Leaguers marching at the front of the Parade, were greeted by cheers as they marched into West Concord Center. During the morning our booth staff was kept busy giving away balloons and literature to the passing crowd. Many thanks to Nancy Beeuwkes, Debbie Barr, Shawna Reid, Li-Jen Lin and all our marching members for the hard work in making this event a success.

October promises to be another busy month. In addition to our regular activities, including the October 6 Board Meeting at which all members are welcome, we have three special events planned: our **Candidates Forum for State Senator and State Representative**, the **Massachusetts LWV Phonothon**, and the **LWVM Fall Conference on October 30**. We hope each of you will participate in at least one, if not all of these events.

As it is a very important election year, there is also a special effort to get out the vote being spearheaded by the Massachusetts League. Those of you with internet connections are urged to log on to the special get out the vote site:

<http://www.voteinfo.info/> where you can access all sorts of useful information, including the Voters Bill of Rights signed by Governor Romney and LWVM President Madhu Sridhar.

We also have LWV literature directed at new voters in High School and College that gives information on how to get absentee ballots and how to decide where to vote—in their home district or at school. *All new voters need to be registered by October 13th to be eligible to vote in the Presidential election, so if you know of any potential new voters, the time to act is NOW!*

October is just the beginning. We look forward to a fruitful and exciting League year and hope each of you will play an active part in keeping the League a vital part of our communities.

I'll be looking for you.
Susan

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grassroots 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.

Co-Presidents	Cindy Nock	(978) 369-3996	cindynock@aol.com
	Susan Sekuler	(978) 369-8025	susan5@verizon.net
Membership	Debbie Barr	(978) 287-0627	deb01742@aol.com
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Webmaster	Li-Jen Lin	http://lwvma.org	webmaster@lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Barr, Concord, & Barbara Lewis, Carlisle

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee is growing. This year it includes:

Debbie Barr, overall coordinator and overseeing Concord
Barbara Lewis, Carlisle
Sue Cannon, logistics
Fran Neville, treasurer and data base manager.

If anyone has any ideas for membership activities, or would like to come join this group, please contact Debbie at (978) 287-0672 or deb01742@aol.com.

WEST CONCORD FAMILY FESTIVAL

Did you wave as the LWVCC marched by in the West Concord parade? A great turn out with our banner and 'vote today' signs. Thanks to Nancy Beeuwkes, Sue Cannon, Li-Jen Lin, Shawna Reid and Paula Vandever who staffed our table opposite Concord Teacakes...they blew up dozens of red, white and blue balloons, carted all the goods and chatted up the public!

LIST OF 2004 DONORS

Thank you to the twenty-three members listed below who have contributed above the cost of dues when they renewed their membership in the LWVCC for this year. These contributions total \$3115 so far! Your support is essential to our continuing work in voter service and advocacy of issues. If we have made an error, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can update our records. Call Debbie Barr at 287-0627 or email deb01742@aol.com.

Thank you again to the following LWVCC donors:
Barbara & Reed Anthony, Ruth Armknecht, Nancy

& Norman Beecher, Nancy & Reiner Beeuwkes, Nancy Birchard, Dinah Buechner-Vischer, Sue Cannon, Ann Comer, Holly Cratsley, Carol Dwyer, Louise & Charles Haldemen, Anne Hayden, Li-Jen Lin, Marilyn B. Kloss, Erica Morrison, Fran & John Neville, Evin Phillips, Alma Ring, Cynthia Schweppe, Becky Shannon & Andrew Weinstein, Norma & Benson Shapiro, Annabelle Shepherd, Elizabeth Sluder, Paula Vandever, Judith Walpole.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thanks to the 76 in our membership who have renewed their membership! If you have not yet done so, please complete and mail the form in this Bulletin. Your membership team salutes you!

LOSSES

This summer the League lost several members from its Concord-Carlisle family. In early August Ruth and Hugh Lauer's son Arthur passed away and last month Carolyn Musicant died. We express our deepest condolences to their families and friends for their losses.

LWVCC BOARD POSITIONS

The LWVCC Board has several openings that need to be filled: recording secretary and publicity. The recording secretary position can be filled by one or more league members. The publicity responsibilities can be carried out by one or more persons who do not need to serve on the board (although they can if they so wish).

Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in either of these areas please contact either Susan Sekuler (978 369-8025) or Cindy Nock (978 369-3996).

CARLISLE UPDATE

Barbara Lewis

CARLISLE TOWN MEETING

On Tuesday, November 9th Carlisle will be holding a Special Town Meeting to find and fund solutions to two long term problems with two town buildings, as well as resolve some budget bookkeeping issues. Of the four articles on the Warrant, one appropriates funds for repairing the heating system at Town Hall and another will provide the money to construct a wastewater treatment facility for the Carlisle school.

The Tuesday following the election, November 16th, is set as the day the town will vote on debt exclusions for both of these issues. However, if at the Town Meeting the decision is made to fund both of these projects from monies in free cash and the stabilization fund, then it will not be necessary to hold the election at all.

BENFIELD LAND

Our town is also working very hard to plan for the development of the Benfield land that was purchased last spring as a result of a decision made by the town at a Special Town Meeting held in March.

An eight member task force held an open work day on Saturday, September 18th, so that ideas and views held by residents could be exchanged, in order to provide some early direction to the process of devoting the land to affordable housing, athletic fields and open space.

A second planning meeting will be held on Sunday, October 3rd, at which it is hoped one or two architects will provide their own insight into this project.

OBSERVER CORPS

Louise Haldeman

The Observer Corps is an intrepid band of League members who attend meetings of the various Boards and Committees in Concord and write reports on their activities.

Concord is extremely fortunate in that so many of its citizens agree to give many hours of their time, with no compensation, to develop the policies and procedures which keep Concord going. Most of these committees labor in obscurity as the local paper cannot cover their meetings.

In many cases various committees are working on different aspects of the same problem. For example many land use issues are addressed by the Planning Board, the Natural Resources Commission, the Board of Health, the Historical Commission, and the Housing Authority. The League's Observer Report which is published several times each year is the one document which draws together reports from all these committees at the same time.

The Observer Report is mailed to all League members as a matter of course as well as many officials of the town and to other interested citizens. This year it will also be placed on the League's website, making it available to anyone who logs on. At the moment the Report only covers Concord but a Carlisle section could certainly be included if Carlisle members would care to volunteer.

The Corps does need new members. At the moment we have no observer for the School

Committee, the Housing Authority, the Recreation Commission, or the Finance Committee. We would also like additional observers for the Selectmen, the Light Board and or either the Library Board or the Library Trustees.

There are many other committees such as the School Building Committee, the Long Range Planning committee and the Historic Districts Commission which could also use observers. And of course we need substitutes!

The only requirements for becoming an Observer is that one be a member of the League, undertake to attend the committee meetings with reasonable regularity, and be able to write an objective report. The Observer Corps meets regularly on third Thursdays at the Everett Gardens Common room, however not being able to attend the observer meeting should not be considered an obstacle to being an Observer. Those who can come, though, do hear all the Town scuttlebutt.

At present the Observer Corps members are: Reed Anthony-Library Committee; Elsie Bracco-Board of Health; Gerald Lauderdale-Selectmen; Erica Morrison-Historical Commission; Frances Neville-Public Works; Jean Reinhardt-Planning Board; Tom Sisson-Light Board; Betsy Sluder-Natural Resources Commission. Sainly substitutes are Barbara Anthony and Valerie Drenzo. This is a great group - Please join. For more information please call Louise Haldeman at (978) 369 8562.

VOTER SERVICE

LWVCC CANDIDATES FORUM

Sunday, October 17, 2004

CCHS Auditorium 3-5 PM

The LWVCC will hold a Candidates Forum on Sunday, October 17, 2004 at the CCHS auditorium from 3:00-5:00 PM.

Candidates will be present for two races: State Representative of the 14th Middlesex District - Rep Corey Atkins (Democrat Incumbent Concord) and Douglas Stevenson (Republican Carlisle); and State Senator from the 3rd Middlesex District – Sen. Susan Fargo (Democrat Lincoln) and John Thibault (Republican, Chelmsford). The moderator will be Rick Frese, Professor of Government at Bentley College.

Candidates will have the opportunity to make brief statements at the beginning and end of the debate, will answer written questions from the audience, and if time allows take questions from the floor and question each other regarding their positions.

This LWVCC program is open to the public. Concord and Carlisle residents and their friends are encouraged to attend and be an informed voter at the polls on November 2nd.

LWVACTON CANDIDATES NIGHT

Thursday, October 14, 2004

Action Town Hall, 7:30 PM

The League of Women Voters, Acton Area, is sponsoring a Candidates Night to be held on Thursday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Acton Town Hall room 204. The following candidates have been invited to participate: State Senate candidates from Middlesex and Worcester Counties: Sen. Pam Resor (Democrat) and Rod Jane (Republican). State House of Representatives candidates from 14th Middlesex District: Rep. Cory Atkins (Democrat) and Douglas Stevenson (Republican); and from 37th Middlesex District: Rep. Jamie Eldridge (Democrat) and Thomas J. Dyer (Republican).

Each candidate will be given an opportunity to make statements before and after a question and answer period. Some questions will be prepared by the League prior to the event. Audience members will have the chance to submit written questions as well. Louise Haldeman, a Concord League member, will serve as moderator.

The November 2nd election comes less than three weeks after this even. Listening to what the candidates have to say and to how they answer questions gives voters a clearer sense of the choices they have. The League urges you to join us for this important opportunity.

LWVCC WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://lwwcc.ma.lwvnet.org>

Our website is just starting out and will be expanding this year. We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions as to how to make it into a resource that all League members will be able to use easily and productively. For more info contact Li-Jen Lin (webmaster), Susan Sekuler or Cindy Nock.

LWVM website: <http://lwvma.org> for state league and links to voter info sites.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Nancy James

Domestic Violence Prevention activities in Concord

September 2004

Nancy James 369-2771

Introduction: national and state League chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention. Our newsletters will now contain a report each month on the activities within Concord and surrounding towns about this issue. Included in these reports will be the Network for Women's Lives (Network), Concord-Carlisle Domestic Violence Roundtable (Roundtable), Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP), and a men's group Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control, which meets in Carlisle.

Rachel's Box Project Rachel's Box in need of materials? Please notify Nancy James 978-369-2771 if you notice boxes in disarray or needing materials.

Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)

Alison Gilbert is DVVAP's new Direct Services Manager, working with the advocate's office in Bedford. DVVAP will be expanding its court intervention project with a training curriculum of an official "court advocate project" to include volunteer advocates. DVVAP and Hanscom Air Force Base have developed a formal working collaborative for serving military base victims.

Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)

Training for new advocates is scheduled for January – February, 2005. Seven towns are now part of the DVVAP collaborative, having held mandatory training for all police officers and dispatchers in May, 2004. Training this fall include DVVAP advocates working with Asian, Latin American, and Indian communities. Want to be a part of this? Call the DVVAP office at 978-318-3421, or KWarning@concordnet.org, DVVAP@concordnet.org for volunteer information. See their web site www.DVVAP.org.

Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP Network for Women's Lives and the Bedford Violence Prevention Coalition are sponsoring a candlelight vigil on Bedford Green Friday, October 22 at 7:00 PM. Call the DVVAP office at 978-318-3421 for needed details.

Network for Women's Lives is hosting at their regular meeting on October 18 at 6:45 PM, Michele Bograd, PhD addressing issues of domestic violence and couples therapy. Examining the complex ethical and practical issues of the dangers faced by women involved with a violent partner in couples therapy (versus private therapy and safety planning) should stimulate a lively discussion.

Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control For more information on MADAC's Carlisle monthly meetings, contact Dunkerst@aol.com.

By: Nancy P. James

9/14/04