



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

### ***LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION***

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday Forum on Green Waste**

Lexington is evaluating the siting of an organic waste processing facility at the Hartwell Avenue Landfill that might make neighboring communities green with envy. Speakers at the League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum on May 6 will describe green waste, how it's processed and why Lexington would embark on such a venture.

The speakers, Superintendent of Environmental Services Robert Beaudoin; Town Engineer John Livsey; Bruce Haskell of Camp, Dresser and McGee; and a representative from the Mass Department of Environmental Protection will also answer questions.

This is the eighth and last in a series of 2010-2011 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:45 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress and from the Minuteman Bikeway. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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#### **LWVL CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKBOOK**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the League will be held June 2, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Lexington Depot. The Featured speaker is Speaker: E. Ashley Rooney, Lexington Resident and Author of "A Writer's Journey". Attached is this year's Workbook for your review.

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## LWVL Accepting Suggestions for 2011 – 2012 First Friday Topics

The League First Friday Forums have been getting rave reviews. Kudos to Nancy Adler and her committee, Sandy Shaw and Judy Uhrig; and to Peggy Enders for her faithful filming for LexMedia and Anne Frymer for providing the coffee.

Now it's time to start planning for next season and we encourage all members to think about topics they would like to see presented during First Friday Forums next year. The League hosts eight monthly first Fridays beginning in October. Please contact Nancy Adler via e-mail at [nancya519@gmail.com](mailto:nancya519@gmail.com) with subjects you feel would be informative and interesting.

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## Current Local Study Update

In preparation for the celebration of Lexington's 300th Anniversary, the LWVL has encouraged and assisted in the support of the Lexington Public Schools in writing and implementing a three year Lexington Education Foundation Project. By the third year of the grant, all grade levels will be involved in this project. The hope is to expand student understanding of local history, so that they appreciate their own place in Lexington's and in America's history, by developing exciting activities that, with the assistance of the elementary technology integration specialist, will integrate technology from the first moment our teachers begin preparing lessons connected to this milestone.

This grant will and has provided time for teachers to collaborate in the design of Anniversary - related activities. The K-5 Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Elementary Technology Integration Specialists and the LHS Social Studies Department Head will organize summer workshops and ensure that quality lessons are created and student learning is achieved.

A website was created in Year One of the grant. It will continue to be a central place for teachers to post lesson plans, students to conduct research, learn about Lexington's history and publish projects that connect with both Lexington's local history and the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (Social Studies, Art and Library).

The Social Studies work our students complete, whether oral histories, podcasts, annotated walking tours maps or drawings, will serve as a resource for all community members by 2012 - 2013, in time for the official Anniversary events.

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## LWVMA April 13, 2011 Day on the Hill Advocacy

[Link to Detailed Packet](#) of Legislation Supported by the League

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## **LWVMA Save the Dates**

### **ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 20 and 21, 2011**

#### **WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA



Featured Speaker - Mayor Lisa A. Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg since Jan. 2008 and the first Asian female mayor in the state's history.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 14**

#### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

##### **Friday, May 20**

11:30 a.m. Registration  
12 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch  
2 - 3:30 p.m. Workshops: Discussion of The Strategic Plan  
4 - 5:30 p.m. First Plenary Session  
7 - 8:30 p.m. Banquet

##### **Saturday, May 21**

9:00 a.m. Registration  
9:30 - 10:15 Discussion of the Nonpartisan Role of the League  
10:30 - 11:45 Workshops:  
- Membership Recruitment & Leadership,  
- Finances & Fundraising,  
- Presidents Council,  
- Strategic Planning  
12 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch  
2 - 4 p.m. Second Plenary Session

**To view Convention Related Documents, click on links below:**

[Exhibits and Fundraising Forms](#)

[Pre-Convention Information](#)

[Local League Delegate Allocation](#)

[Local League Delegate Form](#) (delegates also need to send in the Registration Form) Please send in one form per local League with all your League's delegates listed

[Registration Form](#) - The 2-day payment option includes the Friday Banquet

[Strategic Plan Executive Summary](#)

To reserve a room for convention please call the Publick House at 508-347-3313 or 800-PUBLICK. Tell them you are with the League of Women Voters to receive our rate of \$89 (plus tax). The Publick House website is <http://www.publickhouse.com/>

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## ***LWVUS NEWS AND INFORMATION***

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

#### **Dear League Leader:**

State Convention season is upon us! I know some of you have already had your Convention and are gearing up for new projects and new challenges, but the next six weeks will be jam-packed with great meetings, good program and stimulating discussion and sharing. Your LWVUS Board is very excited that we will be able to attend so many state conventions. Between Board members and staff, we will be attending more than 40 conventions! Some Board members, myself included, have already been able to join you as you plan for the next two years.

The 2011-2013 biennium promises to be interesting, offering the League at all levels many challenges and even more opportunities. Our history demonstrates that we are at our best, in League, when the issues are the most challenging.

Just this week we have compelling evidence of how working together at the state, local and national levels of the League gets us high visibility and great press hits on the incredible work we do, such as our challenging voter ID and groundbreaking voter registration projects. This week, a NYT editorial notes that new voter ID requirements are unnecessary and will suppress the vote. It highlights the League's High School Voter Registration project and quotes a Florida League member on voter ID. The League also received mentions on the April 26 Rachel Maddow show during its coverage of the Florida Voter ID bill.

This convention season, we look forward to working together to put our best efforts forward for our communities and underscore the "Power of the Vote."  
Continuing to Make History!

Elizabeth MacNamara  
President, LWVUS

### **EDUCATION FUND (Elections; Fair Judiciary)**

#### **Elections: LWVUS Denounces DOJ Decision**

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Justice gave approval to the state of Georgia, allowing them to implement their new law that would require individuals to prove their citizenship when registering to vote. The League of Women Voters has been fighting such laws across the country and believes that this new law could disenfranchise thousands of citizens by creating insurmountable barriers to voting. Read the LWVUS response here.

### **ADVOCACY**

#### **League Expresses Concern Regarding Federal Budget**

League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter to Senators urging them to carefully contemplate the underlying equity and policy decisions that are reflected in the budget. The LWVUS Lobby Corps members have been visiting Senate offices with the League's message.

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## ***OBSERVER CORPS INVITATION***

### **League Volunteer Opportunity**

The League always needs people to observe local town board and committee meetings. If you'd like to learn more about how Lexington operates, volunteer to be a League observer. You can either attend meetings in person or watch from home and write up a brief summary of the proceedings for the Bulletin. It's okay if you can't cover every meeting. We welcome occasional reports, as well.

We currently need observers for the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and School Committee. If you have a particular area of interest, or can recommend someone, contact Pat Costello at [patcostello@rcn.com](mailto:patcostello@rcn.com).

These reports are crucial to keeping League members informed. Please consider volunteering your time.

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### **Membership**

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is always open to new members. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member, you can download a membership form from our website at [www.lwvlexington.org](http://www.lwvlexington.org) or call 781-862-6435 and we'll be happy to send one.

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the May 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by May 23.**

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