



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

---

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM "What's So Special About Lexington Architecture", Anyway? January 3, 2014**

The history of Lexington is written in its buildings. We're all familiar with the historic taverns of 1775 that our Historical Society preserves and manages for the benefit of the public; but there are many private buildings, homes and other structures that represent not just of the colonial and federalist periods, but many other important eras in our Town's history. Have you ever wondered: Where in Lexington can we find examples of architectural styles from the 1600s to 2013? What is the difference between the basic Salt Box, the Federalist style, the Gothic Revivals and our noted Mid-Century Moderns? What makes certain of these properties worthy of preservation.

The Historic Districts Commission reviews proposed changes to the exterior of buildings within defined historic districts (e.g., along the Battle Road). The Historical Commission has a broader mandate: To encourage the preservation of properties anywhere in town that meet specific historic criteria. Together they are charged with identifying and protecting our architectural heritage. Panelists Marilyn Fenollosa and Sally Zimmerman from the Historic Districts Commission and the Historical Commission will provide a virtual tour of our Town's architecture and describe why they are so passionate about historical preservation in the Town of Lexington.

This is the fourth in the series of 2013-2014 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 9:15 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:30 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at [781-863-1733](tel:781-863-1733). All League forums are open to the public at no charge. For weather updates, check the Town and Library websites.

---

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

---

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti – [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com)  
Membership: Lisah Rhodes – [lisahrhodes@gmail.com](mailto:lisahrhodes@gmail.com)  
Lisa Smith [lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com)  
Melinda Walker - [melinda.walker@rcn.com](mailto:melinda.walker@rcn.com)

---

---

**LEXINGTON GWAC TO PRESENT THE FILM  
“A FIERCE GREEN FIRE”  
January 16, 2014**

The Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition will present the documentary film “**A FIERCE GREEN FIRE**” in the Cary Memorial Library meeting room, 1874 Mass Avenue, at 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

Inspired by the book of the same name by Philip Shabecoff and with advice from the biologist E.O. Wilson, **A FIERCE GREEN FIRE** chronicles the largest movement of the 20th century and one of the keys to the 21st. It brings together all the major parts of environmentalism and connects them. It focuses on activism, people fighting to save their homes, their lives, the future - and succeeding against all odds. Narrators include Robert Redford and Meryl Streep. Admission is free.

---

**MOCK TOWN MEETING RETURNS FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

Planning is now underway for the March 2014 event. To volunteer for this event or assist in the planning, please contact Jessie Steigerwald at [jess@shininghours.com](mailto:jess@shininghours.com) or Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at [nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:nancor1106@gmail.com).

---

**RIDES TO THE POLLS**

Thank you to Liz Andrews for coordinating our rides to the Polls on December 10, 2013 for the Special Election for the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District and to Carol Ann Bottino who drove a voter to the polls.

---

**TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED - THANK YOU!**

---

**The League’s F/Y 14 Membership Drive is On!**

If you haven’t renewed your League membership for F/Y 14, please remember to do so. The League thanks those members who have already renewed their memberships.

---

---

## The League is Looking for Volunteers

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is looking for volunteers to fill board and off-board positions for the coming year. Contact the League at 781-307-3116 for more information.

---

## Watch the League's Forums on Demand

If there is a League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum that you've missed or would like to see again, log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "League of Women Voters" under Categories.

---

## LWVMA Help Set the National League Agenda

It's time for your League to have a say in the direction the national League will take. LWVUS is asking for input on its legislative priorities for the coming year and in its program planning process. Below is information from LWVUS on both of those requests for your League to consider.

### **National Legislative Priorities 2014 - 2015:**

In January, the LWVUS Board of Directors will be setting the League Legislative Priorities for the upcoming year. The national board is soliciting suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities from members. While the LWVUS has numerous positions under which we might take action, the Board must prioritize and consider those issues where we might be able to make a difference.

According to the LWVUS [Impact on Issues](#), the goals for setting priorities to guide LWV advocacy work are to: (1) Enhance the League's effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues; (2) Build the League's credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image; (3) Ensure that the League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably; and (4) Enable the League to manage resources effectively. In setting legislative priorities, the Board considers opportunities for the League to make an impact; program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; member interest; and resources available to manage effectively.

If you or your League would like to make suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities, please email Advocacy Committee Chair [Toni Larson](#). Please indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member, a committee, board or membership meeting. Suggestions must be received by **January 11**.

**National Program Planning 2014 - 2016:**

The [Program Planning Response Form](#) is now online! Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. Read the [Program Planning Leaders Guide](#) to assist you in your January/February 2014 Program Planning meeting. If you have questions on the program planning process please email [progplan@lww.org](mailto:progplan@lww.org). The deadline for program planning responses is **March 1**.

---

**Annual Lobbying Day is Wednesday, March 26.**

The LWVMA's annual lobbying day at the State House is set for **Wednesday, March 26**. Please encourage your members to participate. The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has in such upcoming legislative areas as election reform, gun safety, campaign finance reform and environmental issues.

Consider organizing a carpool of interested members from your League and then contact your state legislators for an appointment to discuss League-supported legislation after the morning's program ends at noon. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators.

If you plan to invite your legislator to lunch, please schedule lunch after 1 p.m. so other Leagues in that legislator's district have a chance to talk to him or her between noon and 1pm.

---

**2014 National Convention Is June 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, TX**

The national League of Women Voters convention will be held in Dallas June 6-10, and the Massachusetts League board urges all of our local Leagues to consider sending a delegation. The national convention is an amazing opportunity to connect with like-minded people from around the country and to get to know people from other Massachusetts Leagues better.

LWVUS has just posted its [Guide to Convention 2014](#) which can answer your questions about how to register, how many delegates you can send, and what happens at convention. If you plan early, you can take advantage of some very good airfares to Dallas! Let's make the Massachusetts delegation one of the biggest in Texas!

---

---

## LWVUS

This is the last Update of the year. LWVUS Board and staff, like League members around the country will be taking time with family and friends to reflect on the [successes of the past year](#) and prepare for the challenges of the New Year. Like every year, we look back on some disappointments, like the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* and the renewed assault on voting rights in many of the states. Overall, however, we should celebrate the hard work that we have done together in League to protect voters and Making Democracy Work® in our communities.

An overview of [our work in 2013](#) recently appeared on the Huffington Post. The list is impressive. This was not a federal election year, but voter service continued as many states and localities selected leaders and decided ballot issues. League volunteers registered new voters, prepared voter guides and held candidate forums. In court, we intervened to protect the vote and in state legislatures, we continued to oppose legislation limiting voter access to the polls.

In addition to voting rights, Leagues have been on the front lines defending the environment, educating and advocating for the Affordable Care Act, especially pushing states to expand Medicaid. Making Democracy Work is more than just a tag line, for our wonderful volunteers, it is a way of life.

Have a safe and happy holiday season, see you next year!

In League,

Elizabeth McNamara, President

---

### **The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!**

"Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

---

**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the February 2014 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by February 23, 2014.**

---

**Dates to Save:**

- January 3<sup>rd</sup>      First Friday Forum - "What's So Special About Lexington Architecture"?, Anyway
- January 16      GWAC Presents "A Fierce Green Fire", Cary Memorial Library, Lexington, MA – 7:00 p.m.
- February 13      LWVL's Candidates Night
- March 26<sup>th</sup>      LWVMA Annual Lobbying Day



League of Women Voters of Lexington  
P. O. Box 233  
Lexington, MA 02420