



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

League of Women Voters of Lexington – 70th Annual Meeting

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Cary Memorial Library
1874 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA**

AGENDA

- 7:30 p.m. Meeting and Greeting Time
Dessert and Coffee
- 7:45 p.m. Speaker: Rita Goldberg, Author
“Motherland: Growing Up With The Holocaust”
- 8:15 p.m. Business Meeting Wendy Manz
Announcements
Treasurer’s Report Jeanne Kreiger
Adoption of 2014-2015 Budget
Election of Officers and Directors Lisah Rhodes
Direction to the Board

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

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JUNE 19th
AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING
Cary Memorial Library**

The League's Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, June 19, 2014 at Cary Memorial Library. The League is combining it with a Concurrence Meeting regarding our position on Violence in Media. The current plan is to have the first hour devoted to review of our local study on Media Violence and voting on the questions from that study which will be posed for concurrence and will appear in the June Bulletin. The second hour will be devoted to election of officers and other League business as always.

**LWVMA
FROM COUNCIL 2014
Council Spotlights Civility in Politics**

LWVMA Council on May 10 focused our attention on civility and politics, primarily in local government. Our guest speakers made us more aware of the issue and offered helpful solutions and tools that we could take back to our own communities.



Council drew 72 League members and staff. A review of the year's activities with an eye toward the future was a highlight of the morning. The Outstanding Service Award was presented to each member of the Legislative Action Committee, and four workshops engaged members in a variety of topics.

The LWVMA board wishes to thank all of the presenters and planners, and also thanks the local Leagues that donated a total of \$3,700 to LWVMA.

For a summary, slide shows, and presentations/handouts from Council 2014, visit the Council [webpage](#).

Legislation Update

As most of you know by now, the election reform legislation we have been working so hard on passed -a good start and a launching pad for more reforms next session.



SAVE THE DATE Gun Bill Rally, June 3rd, 2014

Save the date: The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which LWVMA belongs to, is planning an Action Day **June 3** on gun legislation. Registration is at 10 a.m. at the Church on the Hill across from the State House. The rally will be on the State House steps at 10:30, followed by a chance to meet with your legislators. For more information or to say you can attend, email [Carolyn Lee](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@leg.state.ma.us), legislative specialist.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

Guidelines for Ballot Question Forums

There may be as many as seven ballot questions facing voters in the November election. The final decision on the proposed questions will come from the Secretary of State's office in early July.

LWVMA's board has voted to support these ballot questions: update the bottle bill, the patient safety act, and the hospital profit transparency and fairness act. We are opposing the question to repeal the 2013 law indexing the gasoline tax to the Consumer Price Index. The board will decide on the question to repeal the casino law after the Supreme Judicial Court rules on whether the question is valid. LWVMA is taking no stand on the ballot questions on raising the minimum wage and on earned sick time because the League does not have positions at either the national or state level on those issues.

The board recently issued guidelines for local Leagues which are considering holding forums or printing information on the ballot questions. The guidelines are posted on our website [here](#). Please take a look before planning ballot question events since the situation is complicated by the fact that we have stands on some questions but not all of them.

LWVUS

At every League convention and annual meeting, we celebrate our successes and look not just to the year or two years ahead, but to the future of the League. Nearly 100 years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt called for a League of Women Voters to finish the

fight. She described the League as the most natural, most appropriate and most patriotic memorial to the suffrage movement that there could be. A League of Women Voters would be appropriate because we could do for the next generation what was done for us.

We are constantly striving to pass along to others the knowledge and experience given to us by our predecessors. We do that when we ask new people [to join us in our work](#), we do that when we mentor, and we do that when we [nominate leaders](#) to carry forward the important work of the League. That [path or ladder of leadership](#) from inviting, to nurturing to nominating is the key to success of any organization. Over the course of our history, the League of Women Voters has adapted and changed as the volunteer and political landscape has changed. Viewed initially with suspicion as a vehicle to create a separate woman's party, the League developed a reputation as a leader in providing nonpartisan adult political education. Surviving conspiracy theories, red scares, depressions and a world war, the League is a well-respected powerhouse on issues ranging from local tax levies to money in politics and clean air at the national level.

Working for voting rights, clean elections and equal opportunity, the League, from the 1970's on, experienced an inevitable decline in volunteer membership and support as environmental and good government organizations proliferated and women entered the workforce in large numbers. Since I joined the League in 1982, the focus on making a difference by making democracy work in our communities often got in the way of finding sustainable ways to attract new members. As a young professional serving on a state and local League board, I confess I was puzzled by the complexity of League administrative processes. Convention 1994 was my first opportunity to get a larger view of the workings of the League. Attending every convention since then, I have seen LWVUS approach membership issues in a variety of ways. In 2006, as a nominee to the national Board, I was delighted to attend convention as an ambassador for the Membership Recruitment Initiative which evolved into the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program. The proposal to pilot a coaching model that reached out directly to local Leagues, providing a message and a method of including new member recruitment in every League activity, was a real breakthrough.

As a member of the national Board, I have seen firsthand how successful this approach has been. Starting small, testing ideas, getting feedback and adapting to the realities of grassroots volunteer management, has proved so successful that when a major donation came to us in 2010, LWVUS was ready with a plan to create a network of national and state coaches dedicated to keeping Leagues active, visible and inviting. Only at the League could the national office leverage the experience of nearly 200 volunteer coaches at the state and national levels who dedicate their time and talents to provide focused support to current local League leaders!

Convention 2014 will celebrate the success of a consistent and sustained system of support that incorporates not just membership, but also shares ideas and tools through

[monthly guidance](#), encouraging us to be more visible in our communities, to connect widely through social media, to embrace younger generations and to intentionally develop new leaders as we educate and advocate in our democracy. For the first time in nearly two decades, our membership numbers, organization-wide, have stabilized for three years in row. What could be more appropriate? Working together, we are doing for the next generation what was done for us. As we move together, ever closer to that all important 100th anniversary, we are making this happen!

In League,
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the September 2014 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by August 23, 2014.

Dates to Save:

June 3 LWVMA Gun Bill Rally, State House, Boston

June 19 LWVL Annual Meeting, Cary Memorial Library



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P. O. Box 233
Lexington, MA 02420