



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL DECEMBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Does Lexington need a Community Center?

A Community Center Task Force was created in 2011 by the Lexington Board of Selectmen to develop "...a report about the concept of a community center, including recommendations, to serve the intellectual, physical, and social needs of seniors, other adults, teens and youth in our community." The Task Force has visited centers in other towns, and talked to leaders of groups, departments and boards in Lexington to create one vision of how a Lexington Community Center could be a place where people of all ages and groups of all kinds would find something for themselves. At the League of Women Voters Forum on Friday, December 7, the community will have an opportunity to discuss their findings,

Panelists at the forum will include Community Center Task Force Vice-Chair Jim Goell and Task Force Members: Betty Bhorgesani, Senior Center aspects; Lisah Rhodes, recreation viewpoints; and Tim Dugan, youth activity considerations.

This is the third in a series of 2012-2013 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. 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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COMING SOON - MOCK TOWN MEETING FOR 8th GRADE STUDENTS

The Community Mock Town Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at Cary Hall and we need volunteers to assist with planning event work and/or be present on the day of the event to help. If interested, please contact Jessie Steigerwald at jess@shininghours.com or Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti at nancor1106@gmail.com for more information.

Card and Calendars for Veterans

Wondering what to do with the unsolicited cards and calendars that come in the mail? They are welcome at the Veterans Hospital in Bedford. You can take them there or drop them off at 9 Preston Road (Pat Costello) before December 10 and we'll deliver.

Taping First Fridays

Do you or someone you know have an interest in videotaping events? The League is looking for volunteers to videotape our First Friday Forums. These forums are held on the first Friday of the month during the months of October through May. If interested, contact the League at 781-863-0474 for more information.

Rides to the Polls

Thank you to Liz Andrews for coordinating our rides to the Polls on November 6, 2012. She received an overwhelming number of calls from people volunteering to give rides to the polls and the League had more drivers than requests for rides!

The League wants to thank those who did provide rides: Sam Berman, Carol Ann Bottino, Rob Enders, Liz Haines, Tracey Morgan, Setha Olson, Sandy Shaw, Jessie Steigerwald and Shirley Stoltz

TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED - THANK YOU!

The League's Membership Drive is On!

Thank you to members who've renewed their memberships. If you haven't renewed your membership for the coming year, please remember to use the form that you received earlier or at www.lwvlexington.org.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The League has recently updated its website. Many thanks to Gretchen Reisig for a job well done. Check it out at www.lwvlexington.org!

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

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

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

Massachusetts Conference for Women

The [Massachusetts Conference for Women](#) is December 6 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Since LWVMA is a Supporting Organization, you are entitled to a registration discount when you enter **MACP98** when reserving a ticket. To register on their website, click [here](#). This Conference is the state's premier professional/personal development event for the women of Massachusetts, with world-class keynote speakers, a full day of breakout sessions, expert exchange sessions, lunch and a dynamic, informative exhibit hall where the LWVMA will have a table.

The Conference features motivational keynote speeches, engaging workshops and panel discussions that cover a range of topics specifically for women, including healthcare, leadership, managing change, finding work- life balance and personal finance. This year's theme, Imagine!, dares women to find our purpose and make a difference in our own lives and in the communities and world we live in. Check out the full range of opportunities the Conference has to offer at MAConferenceForWomen.org.

Keynote speakers confirmed include:

[Arianna Huffington](#), one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in 2011, president and editor-in-chief of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Huffington Post Media Group.

[Barbara Bradley Baekgaard](#), co-founder of Vera Bradley, which quickly grew into an internationally recognized organization. Vera Bradley designs, markets and manufacturers handbags, luggage, accessories, paper and gift items and eyewear.

[Tory Johnson](#), founder and CEO of Women For Hire, a weekly contributor on ABC's Good Morning America and a New York Times bestselling author. Her sixth book is, "Spark & Hustle: Launch and Grow Your Small Business Now."

Others include [Deepak Chopra](#), [Dr. Brené Brown](#), [Kristin Chenoweth](#), and [Charlotte Beers](#).

I hope to see you there!

Eva Valentine
LWVMA President

LWVUS

So much good work was done during election season that it is truly hard to come off the post-election high and shift toward influencing public policy. But we are doing it.

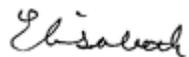
Across the country, Leagues are planning holiday parties, many of which will include state legislative delegations. Congress is back in session with a fiscal cliff very much on legislative minds. The League is speaking out on this issue from [our position on funding the federal government](#). The League studied this issue back in the 1980's, another time when the size and role of the federal government were very much at issue.

So much of what is being debated in Congress right now is less about the specifics of debt and deficits than it is about the proper role of government. The League position on

funding the federal government recognizes and supports the positive role that government can play in leveling the playing field and making it possible for every American to realize his or her dream. Deficit reduction is important, but we can't harm the economy as we address that issue. Even as we are focusing on going another round in the state legislatures on voting rights, as we prepare to help our communities understand the importance of the Voting Rights Act, we need to stand up for our vision of an America in which every citizen has a chance to make a better life, where every immigrant has a chance to become a citizen and where citizens who have worked hard all their lives can look forward to living out their lives with independence and dignity. That is what is truly at issue as we debate the so-called fiscal cliff.

The League has always stood for fairness and openness and a voice for all in our democracy. Let us use our voice to stand up for the community that our federal government represents.

In League,



Elizabeth McNamara

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the January 2013 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at Nancor1106@gmail.com by December 23rd.

Dates to Save:

- December 6 Massachusetts Conference of Women, Boston
Convention and Exhibition Center
- December 7 LWVL First Friday Forum “Does Lexington need a
Community Center?”
- January 4 LWVL First Friday Forum “Lexington’s Public Safety
Team – Fire and Police”
- May 17, 18 LWVMA Convention 2013



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