



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL MAY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM IS POSTPONED

**PLEASE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, MAY 3
AT OUR CO-SPONSORED EVENT:**

**Building a Healthy Future:
Setting Our Goals for the Next Generation**

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Cary Memorial Hall, 1605 Mass. Ave., Lexington, MA

Many Massachusetts communities like Lexington are embarking on their biggest building campaigns in a generation. This is an excellent time to have a conversation about how the next generation of municipal buildings can help us achieve our goals for the next generation of our students, teachers, and public employees.

Studies show that buildings with clean and healthy air, lots of natural sunlight, great thermal comfort and moisture control, result in fewer sick days, improved staff productivity, heightened student participation, and even higher test scores!

Plus well-designed buildings don't have to cost more. There are many LEED Platinum buildings being built without any additional cost and providing as much as \$100,000 a year in energy savings. Well-designed buildings also have lower maintenance costs and will insulate Town budgets against future energy price shocks. That money can go directly back into the classroom, freeing up funds for innovative programs, textbooks, computers, or teacher salaries.

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has recently launched the "Pathways to Zero Net Energy" program to encourage the construction of zero-net energy buildings throughout the Commonwealth. Net Zero buildings are designed to be

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

energy buildings throughout the Commonwealth. Net Zero buildings are designed to be resilient, and are able to ride through the increasing number of extreme storms, heat waves, power outages, and floods without a hitch.

If you care about the future of our schools and our Town, this is an event you won't want to miss.

We've got an amazing panel:

Paul Eldrenkamp, Owner, Byggmeister – Sustainable Builder & Chair, 2013 Building Energy Conference, Ellen Watts & Dan Arons, Co-founders Architerra – Sustainable design and zero net energy building architects, Ellen Tohn, Tohn Environmental Strategies – Nationally recognized expert on indoor air quality & healthy buildings and Tina Halfpenny – Director of Energy Efficiency at the Mass Dept. Energy & Environmental Affairs (DOER).

The panel will address these questions:

What goals should we be considering for the next generation of our buildings? How can high performance buildings benefit our health, productivity, and resilience? Are zero-net energy and zero-emission buildings possible and affordable in Massachusetts? How do we choose the best sustainable building standards for our community? What support is available to help our community get started building a healthy future?

Who should attend? Anyone interested in the health, efficiency, and resilience of public buildings. This workshop is open to the public. Sponsored by LexGWAC, League of Women Voters of Lexington, Sustainable Lexington, Sustainable Middlesex & Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA).

**SAVE THE DATE:
LWVL'S ANNUAL MEETING IS JUNE 19TH AT CARY LIBRARY**

The League's Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, June 19, 2014 at Cary 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.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at

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

BOTTLE BILL – LET’S GET IT ON THE BALLOT

We need to finish the work we started last year by getting additional signatures to ensure the updated Bottle Bill is on the November, 2014 ballot. Currently the 5 cent deposit is only on carbonated beverages. The updated bill includes single-serve non-carbonated beverages—waters, teas and sports drinks.

Signature gathering starts May 10 and ends in early June. Fewer signatures are required than in the fall, but all *must be unique*. Signatures of people who signed in the fall will not be counted this time.

Please volunteer to help with the signature gathering by contacting Jeanne Krieger 781 862-7730, jkkrieger@gmail.com. She has a few ideas of where to find new signers, but your help and ideas are needed.

LWVMA CO-Presidents’ Letter



As we write this, the warm weather seems to be here for good - and just like the daffodils and tulips, LWVMA is bursting out all over! First, thank you very much to all of our generous donors to this year's very successful Fall Appeal and Phonathon. The funds raised are already being put to good use!

League members across Massachusetts are busy with town meetings, planning annual meetings, advocating for important issues, and much more. As you peruse the rest of this newsletter, you will see many ways to get involved with the state League.

We want to highlight two upcoming events:

- We hope as many League members as possible attend the upcoming LWVMA Council on May 10. We are sure that many of you have encountered or witnessed incivility in your communities - and perhaps have wondered: what can be done? At Council, we will be sharing experiences and you can learn some concrete ways to counter this divisive problem.
- Whether you are a longtime or new League member, consider attending the LWVUS Convention as a delegate for your local League. The Convention will be from June 6-10, in Dallas, TX. LWVMA will have a visible presence advocating

for strong League action to counter the corrosive effects of unlimited money on our democracy.

Come join us! We can't say it too many times - what sets the League apart from other nonprofit organizations is the concerted, cooperative grassroots effort of all our members! Both Council and Convention provide opportunities to network with other "Leaguers" and learn about and discuss the issues that brought us to the League. We hope to see you soon.

In League,
Anne and Marilyn

DANIEL SCHARFMAN CITIZEN EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The deadline to apply for Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants is Monday, June 2, 2014. For more information, go to www.lwvma.org.

LWVMA 2014 Council

The 2014 LWVMA Council "*Civility in Politics: Challenge to Good Government*" will be held Saturday, May 10, 2014 at [Framingham State University](http://www.framinghamstate.edu) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's Guest Speaker will be Susan M. Jeghelian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC).

All League members are invited to attend.

LWVUS

Like so many others among our members, I love the movie *Iron Jawed Angels*. It is one of those really feel good movies especially since we all know the outcome and what it has meant for our democracy. There is Alice Paul storming the seemingly impregnable citadel by chaining herself to the White House fence. Then follow the heart wrenching scenes at the Occoquan Work House, but interspersed throughout are scenes in the

White House between Carrie Chapman Catt and the President. Those are the scenes I love. While everyone's attention was focused on the very public and very necessary storming of the citadel, League of Women Voters Founder Carrie Catt had studied the plans of the citadel and found a backdoor into the very structures of democracy that stood in the way of woman suffrage.

While certainly less dramatic, that has been one of the best features of *the League way* ever since. We join the protest, we speak out for what is right; we lay siege to whatever obstructs the way forward, but we also study the obstruction, identify the weaknesses in the obstruction and exploit those weaknesses to the fullest. As we fight [to protect the vote](#) in the states, we use every procedural tool at our disposal. How many voter photo ID bills have been stopped by a veto? How many efforts to purge voter rolls have been stopped because the League forced those efforts out into the open? How many bad laws were put on hold because the League was willing to go to court?

Understanding the process and understanding the arguments of our opponents on these issues has allowed Leagues all over the country to exploit weaknesses in the opposition position. Coupled with a grassroots presence in every state and in hundreds of communities, *the League way* made democracy work in 1920 and it has made democracy work ever since. As we move forward to [national convention](#), the [recommended program](#) tackles the structures of democracy that appear the most intractable: [money in politics](#) and redistricting and does it *the League way*. These are problems that can't be solved overnight or with a single approach; the arguments for and against reforms have to be thoroughly understood in order to find that secret passage into the seemingly impregnable citadel so that the obstruction can be overcome.

We can do it. We can channel not just our inner Alice Paul but our inner Carrie Catt. Together, we can find a way forward. It is *the League way*.

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 June 2014 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by May 23, 2014.

Dates to Save:

- May 3 Building a Healthy Future: Setting our Goals for the Next Generation, Cary Memorial Hall
- May 10 LWVMA 2014 Council, Framingham State University
- June 19 LWVL Annual Meeting, Cary Memorial Library



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