

INVITATION

Please join us for the

League of Women Voters of Weston

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2013

7:00 P.M.

In lieu of a speaker, this year's Annual Meeting will be a potluck dinner at the home of Katherine Wolfthal
155 Conant Rd., Weston, MA*

Schedule of Events: 7:00 Potluck Dinner
 8:15 Business Meeting

Please RSVP by June 5 to Katty Chace, 781-891-1087 (tackc@aol.com), to reserve your place. We would like to know how many people to expect.

Board members please contact Katherine at 781-891-9549 or kate@weichi.com to let her know what you're bringing to the potluck.

**THIS IS YOUR ANNUAL MEETING BOOKLET.
PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.**

***If there is no room in the driveway, please park on Sears Road.**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTON 2013 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

7:00 Potluck dinner

8:15 Business Meeting

Call to order	Katty Chace
Re-adoption of Local Positions	Katty Chace
Budget Presentation	Kathie Strehle
Election of 2014-2014 Officers and Directors	Katherine Wolfthal
Adoption of Local Programs	
Adjournment	



**LWV WESTON Proposed Budget
2013-2014**

INCOME	FY to 5/13/13	BUDGET 2013-14	Proposed 2013-14	Notes
A. DUES	\$2,320.00	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00	
B. CONTRIBUTIONS				
1. Member	\$175.00	\$700.00	\$200.00	
2. Non-member	\$112.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	phonathon rev share
C. FUNDRAISING				
1. Bulletin ads	\$593.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
2. Fundraiser				
D. ANNUAL MEETING				
E. INTEREST	\$0.20	\$1.00	\$1.00	
INCOME SUB TOTAL				
F. (From/To reserves)		\$474.00	\$534.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,200.20	\$3,725.00	\$3,385.00	
EXPENSES				
A. SUPPORT				
1. State PMP	\$897.00	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	
2. National PMP	\$1,240.00	\$1,380.00	\$1,240.00	
B. OPERATING				
1. Supplies		\$25.00	\$25.00	
C. BULLETIN				
1. Postage		\$60.00	\$60.00	
2. Printing		\$60.00	\$60.00	
D. ADMINISTRATIVE				
1. President		\$50.00	\$50.00	
2. Board		\$50.00	\$50.00	
3. Membership		\$25.00	\$25.00	
E. Fundraising		\$0.00	\$0.00	
F. MEETINGS				
1. Opening		\$25.00	\$25.00	
2. Annual		\$100.00	\$100.00	
F. DELEGATES & AFFILIATES				
1. Conventions				
a. LWVUS		\$100.00	\$100.00	
b. LWVM	\$620.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
c. Workshops		\$50.00	\$50.00	
G. VOTER SERVICE				
1. Voter education		\$25.00	\$25.00	
2. Fall candidates' night		\$100.00	\$0.00	
3. Spring candidates'night		\$50.00	\$50.00	
4. Coffee hours		\$25.00	\$25.00	
H. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES				
1. Publications incl website	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	
2. Program (incl. Civics Bee)	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
3. High school award		\$50.00	\$50.00	
I. POSITION SUPPORT				
1. Expenses		\$50.00	\$50.00	
2. Donations		\$100.00	\$100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,082.00	\$3,725.00	\$3,385.00	



SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2013-2014

Officers:

President	Katty Chace*
Secretary	Kathleen Rousseau*
Treasurer	Barbara Flannery*

Directors:

Voter Service	
Membership	Lenore Lobel
Bulletin Editor	Katherine Wolfthal
Legislation	Katty Chace
Natural Resources	Barbara Fullerton
Liaison to the PTO	Beth Keane
Advertising and Liaison to the 300 th Birthday Committee	Robin Peakes Coutts

At Large

Diana Chaplin
Kathie Strehle
David Hutcheson
Rochelle Nemrow
Robin Reisman

*Members of the Executive Committee, who may act for the Board between meetings of the full Board.

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAMS 201-2013

LOCAL ISSUE FORUMS: The League will continue our series of Saturday morning Coffee Hours and informational meetings on topics of local interest, including issues facing the town and opportunities to meet and converse with local officials and elected state representatives, in an effort to encourage greater and more informed participation in the democratic process on the part of town residents.

VOTER SERVICES: The League will sponsor voter registration drives as appropriate to increase the voter rolls and to encourage registered voters to exercise their right to vote in an informed way. We will conduct Candidates' and Issues Nights before local and state elections and offer rides to the polls for people in need of transportation.

CIVICS BEE: The League, together with the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues, will continue to sponsor the Civics Bee, in a spirit of friendly competition.



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

May, 2013

No. 155

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Kathie Strehle
508-358-8937

Membership..... Rochelle Nemrow
781-790-1138
Lenore Lobel
781-893-3155

Bulletin EditorKatherine Wolfthal
781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles
to Katherine Wolfthal by e-mail at
kate@weichi.com

This has been a rich and full year for the Weston League. In October, we co-sponsored with the Council on Aging a forum that explained ballot question #2, a referendum on Death With Dignity (also known as Physician-Assisted Suicide). During the November Presidential elections, we offered rides to the polls. Our Coffee Hour to meet Weston's new state Senator Mike Barrett of Lexington was bumped back from February to March thanks to a large snowstorm that compelled the governor to order all traffic to stay off the roads for 24 hours. In early March, Weston hosted the 5th Annual Civics Bee between Weston, Wayland and Sudbury at the Weston Community Center, with the eagle trophy awarded to Sudbury for the 2nd year in a row. Our illustrious team included Selectman Michael Harrity, Moderator Wendy Spector and School Committee Member Ed Heller, as well as our 2 student interns Alex Keane and Sophie Alphas.

In April we unveiled the League's contribution to the town's 300th birthday celebration - Weston300 Quest, a scavenger hunt that can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin (answers can be found on our League website). In April we also embarked on a dizzying round of coffee hours: the Urbanica Company presenting their proposal for turning the Josiah Smith Tavern and the Old Library into a restaurant, a small bed and breakfast, and three condominiums; the new police station proposal, the Case House Master Plan and Case's Corner roundabout were all detailed to large audiences at the library, and taped by Weston Studio for later airing on the local cable station. We also signed up 35 new voters at our High School voter registration drive.

In May, we continued our dizzying pace with a Candidates' Night at the Amy Potter Center that featured four rather exciting races in the local elections: for Selectman, Moderator, Planning Board and Recreation Commission. This was the largest number of contested offices in many years. Our coffee hour two days later examined the issue of whether to continue the year-old practice of bow hunting deer on public land in Weston. The arguments pro and con were presented by Conservation Commission member Brian Donahue and by members of the

Deer Friends group, which had placed the issue on the Town Meeting warrant with a Citizens' Petition. Five board members attended the biennial convention of the Massachusetts League of Women Voters in Peabody, which voted to embark on a two-year study titled, "Massachusetts after Citizens United; SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?" This is added to the upcoming national League study on agriculture.

To finish the year, we co-sponsored a forum on gun safety, which took place this past Tuesday night, with Natick Representative David Linsky describing legislation he has sponsored and Weston Police Chief Steve Shaw, who addressed the number and type of weapons licensed to Weston residents. Our annual meeting, to which you are all invited (see invitation), is a potluck dinner on Monday, June 10, 7:00 at Katherine Wolfthal's, 155 Conant Road. And finally, on June

15 we will hold our last Coffee Hour of the season, at the library. It will focus on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on June 17, including the Urbanica proposal for condominiums in the Old Library.

I would like to thank my board for all their support and help this year. They make my job fun, and are quick to jump in and volunteer to help with all kinds of tasks. Special mention of Kathie Strehle, who is stepping down from her role of many years as our Treasurer, but, to my great relief, staying on as an at-large board member.

There is a membership form in the back of this Bulletin, and I urge you all to sign up and pay your dues now, before the impetus gets lost in the fog of summer. Our fiscal and membership year starts on July 1.

The League of Women Voters of Weston
wishes to extend sincere thanks to the following Friends
and Sponsors who have generously given their support to our work.

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WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3170
Russell Senate Office Building
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543

No e-mail address currently available

The Honorable William M. Cowan
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 565-8519
365 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2742
E-mail: wlliam_cowan@cowan.senate.gov

U.S. Representative 7th District

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781) 396-2900
(202) 225-2836
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2836
<http://www.house.gov/markey>

Governor

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston MA 02133
(617)727-3600
E-mail: Goffice@state.ma.us

State Senator 3rd Middlesex District

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
(617) 722-1572
State House, Room 213A
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov

State Representative 14th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617) 722-2070
(781) 237-4719
State House, Room 473G
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The April meeting was held at the home of Dave Hutcheson.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The treasurer reported that this year's PMPs have been paid to the state and national LWVs. We have a grant from the LWVM to defray our expenses for the Civics Bee. We will also look into the cost of buying a new banner to hang in Weston Center for elections. Our old one is in very poor condition.

The budget for next year was approved, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Diana read her citizen's petition for Town Meeting to us. It is meant to discourage the practice of appointing a new people to board positions after a resignation, thus giving them the status of an incumbent in the next election. Any person interested in a position can attend meetings to learn about the workings of a board.

Annual Meeting. This year the meeting will be a potluck dinner on June 10 at the home of Katherine Wolftal at 7:00 p.m. All members are invited.

We discussed having a June coffee hour to discuss the warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Katty will talk to Donna Vandercllock to see if there someone would be available to present the proposal.

Candidates' Night went well, and was aired on the local TV station very soon after the meeting.

Our help was not needed to drive people to the polls on election day.

The meeting with David Linsky on gun control will be at the library on May 21 at 7:00.

A number of our members are taking part in the Lady Slipper census on our town lands.

We don't know how many people are doing the Weston Quest. Wayland and Sudbury are very interested in doing the same thing next year for their celebrations. We will put the questions in our bulletin. The answers will put on our web site on May 22. We will then put them in the Crier if possible.

There are five people going to the LWVM convention. Barbara Flannery and Katty will be our delegates and Katherine, Barbara Fullerton and Robin Coutts will be attending on Friday.

Our next board meeting will be on September 10.

CALENDAR MAY – SEPTEMBER 2013

May 21, Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. Community Room, Weston Public Library	Gun Safety Forum co-sponsored with Weston Citizens Against Gun Violence
May 23, Monday	MEMORIAL DAY
June 1, Saturday	Weston 300 Celebration continues
June 10, Monday 7:00 P.M., 155 Conant Road (Katherine Wolfthal, 781-891-9549)	LWVW Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner
June 15, Saturday 10:30 A.M. Community Room, Weston Public Library	LWVW Coffee Hour, with focus on Warrant for June 17 Special Town Meeting, including Urbanica proposal for Old Library
June 17, Monday 7:30 P.M., Weston High School Auditorium	Special Town Meeting
June 25, Tuesday 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Election for U.S. Senator (to fill John Kerry's seat)
September 10, Tuesday 9:15 A.M., Location TBD	LWVW Board Meeting

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON OLD LIBRARY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 17

Pam Fox

On Monday, June 17, a Special Town Meeting will be held to vote on three warrant articles relating to the Old Library (OL). The articles, originally scheduled for the May Town Meeting, were postponed to allow additional time for discussion of the rezoning amendment. A public hearing on the amendment will be held on June 4, 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Last July, Urbanica Inc, a Boston development firm headed by Weston resident Kamran Zahedi, submitted a proposal for both the OL and the Josiah Smith Tavern (JST). Consideration of the JST has been postponed to Fall Town Meeting. For the Old Library part of the Urbanica proposal to proceed, affirmative votes are needed on all three Special Town Meeting articles.

The Board of Selectmen decided to split the OL and JST part of the proposal for several reasons. Without rezoning, few options are available for either building under any proposal. The OL part of the Urbanica proposal is less complicated than the JST, a larger building proposed for mixed uses. In addition, deterioration of the exterior of the OL is now at a point where work must be done this summer and fall, either by Urbanica as part of adaptive reuse or by the Town as a stop-gap measure.

The Board of Health has determined that the Urbanica plan for residential use of the OL can be accommodated by a septic system in the front yard of the OL, eliminating the need for a shared system. This makes it easier to separate the two parts of the proposal and will make a septic system for the JST less expensive.

The Special Town Meeting articles are as follows:

- 1) The first article would add a new section to the Zoning Bylaw, called Historic Structures Preservation

Development, “for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the rehabilitation and re-use of historically important structures” by allowing a mix of uses, under certain specified conditions. Zoning amendments require a two-thirds vote. For a text of the proposed by-law, go to

http://www.weston.govoffice.com/vertical/sites/%7B264E11B6-4A4A-4EC0-B631-35FE907B479E%7D/uploads/HSPD_STM_Article_-_Web_Handout_-_June_4_2013_Final.pdf

- 2) The second article would allow the Board of Selectmen to sell the OL building and land. If sold, the OL would be subject to historic preservation restrictions held by the Town and administered by the Weston Historical Commission (WHC). These restrictions would apply to all future owners and would prevent changes to the exterior without permission of the WHC.

- 3) The third article would allow the Town to transfer to the developer \$780,000 in Community Preservation Funds already voted for exterior restoration. (More information below)

Except for short-term uses, the Old Library has been vacant for 18 years, since April 1995, when the new library opened. Presently, the building is unusable not only because of its poor condition but also because it does not meet current building codes.

More than three years ago, in November 2009, Town Meeting turned down a request for additional funds to complete planning for a

restaurant in the JST and space for the Women's Community League and Weston History Center in the OL. Since then the BOS has looked for a solution that does not require the Town to act as developer. The Cecil Group was brought in as consultants and followed a deliberative process involving public meetings, reports, Request for Letters of Interest, Request for Proposals (RFP) issued last spring, and evaluation of the Urbanica proposal, which was the only response to the RFP.

The Urbanica proposal calls for three condominiums to be created at the OL. The original proposal for four condos was modified because of the desire of the Weston Historical Commission to preserve the interior features of the entrance foyer and reading room. The plan is for a large two-story condo in the front (main block) of the building and two smaller two-story units in the rear ell. Bedrooms are on the lower level and living room, dining and kitchen areas on the main floor, with loft spaces in the two smaller units. All units will have entrances off the existing rear parking lot, and the larger unit will also have use of the OL main entrance.

Estimates of the sale price of the units are \$1.4 million for the larger unit and \$700,000 and \$800,000 for the smaller condos. If profits from the OL redevelopment are larger than expected because of higher sales prices or costs that are lower than the estimate, Urbanica will share the extra with the town. If sale prices are lower or project costs are more than estimated, the shortfall comes out of the developer's pocket.

The present condition of the Old Library is a cause for concern. At the May Town Meeting in 2011, voters approved \$850,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for restoration of the OL exterior. The affirmative vote expressed the desire of the community to preserve the building. Two points were made at Town

Meeting: 1) investment in the building was needed to prevent further deterioration and 2) the amount of money needed to restore the building and readapt it to a new use was more than the potential revenue that could be gained from redevelopment. In other words, the building had "negative value" and would need a subsidy from the town for redevelopment to be financially feasible.

Approximately \$70,000 of the \$850,000 was used in the summer and fall of 2011 for emergency repairs to the roof slates, flashing, and windows to prevent water penetration. The Town issued a bid document for the remaining exterior work. Bids came back in excess of the remaining CPA funds. The scope of work was reduced and the bid documents revised but not yet rebid. This process has taken two years, which is the reason that the bulk of the CPA funds voted two years ago have not yet been spent.

Since 2011, the condition of the Old Library has continued to deteriorate. At this point it is urgent that the exterior work be done this summer or fall, either by Urbanica or by the Town. The Town will be ready to bid the reduced scope of work immediately after the Special Town Meeting if the Urbanica proposal does not pass. Urbanica estimates that it will be able to restore the entire exterior with the remaining \$750,000, because its costs are lower than the town's costs, which are estimated at \$1.2 million for complete exterior restoration. A private development company can do an estimated 30% more with the CPA money because it does not have to follow public bid and prevailing wage regulations.

For more background information, go to www.weston.govoffice.com and follow links to Town Projects, Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library Re-use.

WESTON 300 QUEST

As a service to our members, we are publishing the questions for the Weston 300 Quest, formulated in the context of the Weston 300 Celebrations.

The answers may be found at www.westonlww.org

This 3-part scavenger hunt can be done at your own pace and in any order. When you begin the Town Center section, start by facing the Town Hall and walk observantly in a clockwise direction around the Town Green and beyond.

Bonus: Send a photo of you/your family while scavenging and we'll post it on our website. Email to kate@weichi.com.

Enjoy!

Part I – Town Center

How many Weston soldiers died in World War I?

In World War II?

A tree is planted of memory of Weston resident KD who served as chair of our Planning Board in the 1990's. What is her given name?

What is the historic white building across from the Town Green? When does it date from?

Where was George Washington headed when he passed through Weston in June 1775?

Where can you find Phyllis Beigun's outdoor work "Miss Rumphius's Third Wish"?

British General Burgoyne's captured army camped under what kind of tree? When and in what battle were they defeated?

Name the historic law office dating from 1805.

A Weston park is dedicated to the memory of 2nd Lt. Charles Henry Fiske III who died in WWI. In what country did he die?

Who was in command of cannons hauled through Weston?
What war?

(Continued...)



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Part I - Continued

"Bud" Raynor had unwavering dedication to Weston. Which town department did he lead?

What woman serving on our Board of Selectmen was magnificent in coordinating emergency services during the blizzard of 1978?

How many Weston Minutemen assembled to fight the British on April 19, 1775? Who was their leader?

Weston feels gratitude, respect and love for which long-serving Town Administrator?

Part II – From Home

How many square miles is Weston? Its population?

How many miles west of Boston is Weston?

What other Massachusetts town did Weston used to be part of?

Where is Weston's highest point? Its lowest?

In what year was Weston incorporated?

How many precincts are in Weston? How many registered voters?

Where does each precinct vote in local elections?

In state and national elections?

What is the oldest school building still standing in Weston?

What is the executive branch of Weston's government?

What is the legislative branch of Weston's government?

Where is the oldest house in Weston?

Part III – Out and About

Some think a Norse explorer arrived here centuries before Columbus. The tower celebrating this possible event is where?

This man was a hero protecting wetlands, and he wrote a book about walks in Weston. Who is he and where is the larch tree honoring him?

New baseball dugouts honor this man _____.

A small playing field is named for this man who organized games of kickball/baseball for all ages in his tightly knit neighborhood. _____

These 5 good people brought recycling to Weston. Who were they? Where can their plaque be found?

A fields complex is named for this man who championed youth sports in Weston _____.

Fossilized dinosaur tracks can be found outside this earthquake monitoring facility _____.

Answers

Quest 300 answers will be posted on the Weston League of Women Voters website on May 15th.
www.westonlwv.org

Thanks to:

David Hutcheson and other members of the Board of the League of Women Voters for their creativity and knowledge.





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WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT BEES?

Barbara Fullerton

I was drawn to this issue after seeing an email soliciting signatures and comments in protest on the neonicotinoid pesticides being sold by Bayer in Home Depot and Lowes (Provado-Ultimate bug killer) with an additional free bag of “Bee- friendly” wildflower seeds, also coated with the pesticide. (I will forward this email to LWV members.)



It was reported this spring that the European Union had banned for two years the neonicotinoid pesticides that have been used since 2003. This occurred despite the fact that the US Environmental Protection Agency has continued to allow these pesticides to be used in the US, and they have been shown by several studies to be toxic to honey bees and bumble bees, as well as other beneficial insects. Since we depend on bees to pollinate our food crops, as well as to pollinate flowering trees and bushes whose fruits are eaten by birds and other wildlife, any effect on bee populations will have a major impact on our food supply and on wildlife (Philpott, 2013)

Beekeepers have been reporting since about 2006 that their bee colonies were dying, as described by the now familiar phrase “colony collapse disorder”. Bees would suddenly disappear from

the hive, or entire hives would be missing. Currently commercial beekeepers are losing 28-33% of their bees, as opposed to 10-15% before 2006. We now only have about a third the honeybee colonies in the US that were present 60 years ago (Walsh, 2013). The decline in bees is correlated with the increased use of the neonicotinoid pesticides.

(Note that correlation does not prove causation, but the available data in recent publications is highly suggestive of a link.)

What are the neonicotinoid pesticides? Neonicotinoids are insecticides related to nicotine, the major chemical in cigarettes. They are “acetylcholine receptor agonists”, which means that they excite certain synaptic receptors in the nervous system. High exposure levels of the insecticides “flood” the synapses and lead to paralysis and death; they are more toxic to insects than to mammals.

The pesticides may affect bees either with large doses from pesticide dust during planting, or from the tainted pollen that is carried back to the hive. It has been shown that the chemical damages their immune systems, making them more susceptible to parasites, mites and viruses. It also affects the learning and memory systems of their brains. Bees exposed to sublethal doses of the neonicotinoids have difficulty foraging and navigating to areas of food and back to the hive. (Laden, 2012) The areas of their brain that associate smells with plants also fail to work properly (Carrington, 2013).

The insecticides are water soluble and can be sprayed directly onto plants or put into the soil. The usual practice in the industrial farms across the country now is to use seeds that have been coated with the pesticides; the pesticide gets taken up by the plant’s vascular system and

excreted in its pollen and nectar. Pollinating insects, therefore, get a large dose as they travel from flower to flower collecting pollen and nectar. Neonicotinoids also harm birds, who may ingest the coated seeds in the fields or where ever they may have fallen. The dose of the insecticide applied to seeds is much higher than the concentration that might be sprayed on crops on a farm. The insecticides persist in the soil for years, permeate the entire plant, and cannot be washed off the food produced on the plant. Other pollinating insects are also affected by the pesticides; these are butterflies, dragonflies, and ladybugs. Aquatic insects can also be affected, especially since the neonicotinoids are water soluble and can be transferred into streams and wetlands when used nearby. This will indirectly affect birds who eat insects.

Neonicotinoids are commonly available for home gardeners, but they are used in vast quantities in industrial farms in the midwest and south, covering 100-140 million acres, equal to the acreage of California and Washington states (Philpott, 2013). The crops commonly treated are corn, soy, canola, sugar beets, sunflowers, and wheat. Corn is the largest crop in the US, and its pollen is highly attractive to bees.

Neonicotinoids were developed by Bayer; in 2003 they applied to the EPA for registration of clothianidin, one of the first neonicotinoids, and was told that they needed to conduct a study of the effect on bees by December 2004. Bayer was allowed, however, to start selling the pesticide in 2003, they received an extension on the bee study until 2005, but IT WAS NOT COMPLETED UNTIL 2007. During the entire time Bayer continued to sell the pesticide. Bayer's study found no detrimental effect of the neonicotinoid on the bees, but the study was poorly planned and executed. The EPA's scientists in 2010 criticized the study (in a leaked document) and suggested that the registration of the pesticides should be withdrawn. The EPA took no action to stop the sale of the pesticides (Philpott, 2010).

There are new studies available in the last year showing the detrimental effects of the neonicotinoids on bees. Unfortunately, and despite

the EU ban on neonicotinoid pesticides, the EPA does not support a moratorium on the pesticide. It is still "studying" the issue; its review is expected to take five years. We will be lucky if there are still bees to study at that time.

One positive note is that many environmental groups and beekeepers have joined in a lawsuit against the EPA, claiming that they have ignored the problems and failed to protect the bees. Increasing pressure on the EPA from the public should be applied to get them to act in a more responsive way.

What can individuals do?

Avoid pesticides in your lawn and garden.

Support local organic farms.

Support environmental groups financially, if possible.

Tell garden stores that you do not approve of neonicotinoid pesticides and ask them to stop selling them.

Carrington, 2013.

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2013/03/study-pesticides-make-bees-forget-smell-food>

Laden, 2012.

<http://scienceblogs.com/gregladen/2012/03/30/bee-colony-collapse-could-be-c/>

Mercola, 2013.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/neonicotinoid-pesticides-ongoing-death-of-the-bees-epa-slapped-with-lawsuit/5334816>

Philpott, 2010. <http://grist.org/article/food-2010-12-10-leaked-documents-show-epa-allowed-bee-toxic-pesticide/>

Philpott, 2013. <http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2013/05/eu-ban-bee-harming-pesticides-puts-pressure-us-epa>

Walsh, 2013

<http://science.time.com/2013/05/07/beeapocalypse-redux-honey-bees-are-still-dying-and-we-still-dont-know-why/>

League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2013-2014

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Check one: Renewal New Member

I enclose a check made payable to The League of Women Voters of Weston* for:

\$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)

\$75 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household)

Name of second household member: _____

\$50 Basic Membership

\$ _____ Additional Contribution (Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.)

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return to Lenore Lobel, 31 Love Lane, Weston MA, 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.