



# **INVITATION**

Please join us for the

League of Women Voters of Weston

## **ANNUAL CHEESE & DESSERT MEETING**

Thursday, May 24, 2012

6:30 P.M.

In the Community Room of the Weston Public Library

**Guest Speaker, The Hon. Gregory C. Flynn  
Weston Resident, and Judge  
of the Waltham District Court**

Schedule of Events:

6:30 Refreshments: Cheese, Dessert, Coffee
7:00 Guest Speaker,
8:00 Business Meeting

Please RSVP by May 20 to Katty Chace, 781-891-1087 (tackc@aol.com), to reserve your place. Attendance is free, but we would like to know how many people to expect.

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



# The League of Women Voters Of Weston

May, 2012

No. 146

## 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  
781-790-113

Bulletin Editor .....Katherine 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 in  
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to  
**kate@weichi.com**

This year has been full and busy for the League. We started off the fall with a coffee hour at Field School to show people the decrepit condition of the current Field School and give them an opportunity to view the plans for the proposed replacement school building. Later coffee hours included a session with with Representative Alice Peisch and our recent morning with Michael Harrity exploring some of the more controversial articles of the warrant for Town Meeting. In the area of Voter Service, we organized a voter registration drive which enrolled 30 new teenage voters, provided rides to the polls for the Presidential Primary in March, flew our banner overhead to remind voters of elections, and hosted our recent Candidates' Night before local elections. We participated in the 4th Annual Civics Bee with Wayland and Sudbury, offering a strong and vibrant team of adults and students.

On Wednesday, May 16 at 7 pm (NOT 7:30, as previously noted) Weston resident Gabrielle Clemens, a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, will explain the implications of recent changes in divorce and alimony laws at the Josiah Smith Tavern Barn. This program is co-sponsored with the Weston Women's Community League.

I would like to thank my wonderful board for all their willing help and interest this year. Working with them is always a pleasure. I especially want to mention Barbara Hill, who has been serving as the League's liaison on the Moderator's Advisory Committee for the last several months, has been keeping us abreast of the activities of the Community Preservation Committee for the last several years, and who is moving to New York to join her husband David. It will be a great loss for Weston in general and for the League in particular.

**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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**Florentine Frames**

781 647 1249  
478 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

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781 894 1633  
464 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

**Ogilvie's**

781 894 1265  
39 Warren Avenue, Weston, MA

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781 894 0675  
21 Center Street, Weston, MA

**Weston Travel Service**

781 891 9110  
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**TOWN OF WESTON**

**Volunteers Needed - Tercentennial Steering Committee**

Weston will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013. The Board of Selectmen is seeking volunteers who are interested in planning activities and events for the celebration. There is a need for three people to fill the following roles: 1) chair the June 1 field day and fireworks event, 2) treasurer, and 3) member at large who can take over as chair of the steering committee.

Residents should send a letter of interest by Friday, March 30, 2012 to the Board of Selectmen, P. O. Box 378, Weston, MA 02493 or email [selectmen@westonmass.org](mailto:selectmen@westonmass.org).

**CALENDAR  
MAY - JUNE 2012**

<b>May 9 , Wednesday.....</b> 7:30 P.M.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> night of Town Meeting</b>
<b>May 16, Wednesday.....</b> 7:00 P.M., Josiah Smith Barn	<b>Gabrielle Clemens Mass. Divorce and Alimony Law</b>
<b>May 24, Thursday.....</b> 6:30 P.M., Community Room Weston Public Library	<b>LWVW Annual Meeting Speaker: Judge Gregory C. Flynn</b>
<b>June 1, Friday.....</b> 5:15 P.M. , Weston Town Green (Weather permitting)	<b>Weston High School Graduation</b>
<b>June 9-12.....</b> Washington, D.C.	<b>LWVUS Convention</b>
<b>June 14, Thursday.....</b> 61 Beaver Rd. Rochelle Nemrow (781-790-1138)	<b>LWVW Year-End Pot-Luck Dinner</b>

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

### 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 Scott Brown  
2400 JFK Building  
55 New Sudbury Street  
Boston, MA 02203  
(617)565-3170  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-4543  
No e-mail address currently available
- The Honorable John F. Kerry  
One Bowdin Square, Tenth Floor  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)565-8519  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202)224-2742  
E-mail: [john\\_kerry@kerry.senate.gov](mailto:john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov)

#### U.S. Representative 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Goffice@state.ma.us)

#### State Senator 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District

The Honorable Susan Fargo  
(617)722-1572  
State House, Room 505  
Boston MA 02133-1054  
E-mail: [susan.fargo@masenate.gov](mailto:susan.fargo@masenate.gov)  
Home: (781) 259-9623

#### State Representative 14<sup>th</sup> 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@state.ma.us](mailto:alice.peisch@state.ma.us)

The May board meeting was held at the home of Diana Chaplin.

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

The budget for the next year was presented and approved. We have done very well this year because of the ads in our bulletin. The expenses were increased because we expect to have larger PMP payments next year, and there will be a candidate's night in the fall. Our membership dues are currently \$50 basic, \$60 individual (covers our PMP payments), and \$75 family. Should we change our dues structure to fully cover our PMP's to the state and national Leagues? We pay \$200 for our web site, and will continue to do that for the near future.

Our new by-laws will have to be approved at the Annual Meeting.

Local Programming: 1) Local Issues Forums at the Library 2) Voter services - registration drives and candidate's nights, rides to the polls 3) Civics Bee

Coffee Hour: There was a good turnout to hear about the warrant issues.

Candidate's Night: This went very well. One candidate could not attend, but his daughter read his statement. The LWVM Council will be held this Saturday. Katty, Kathie and Kathleen will attend.

Is there a way in which we could encourage open-minded engagement in town government? It was suggested that one way is to meet and engage with people with whom we disagree. There are workshops on dealing with people in a non-confrontational manner, but who would come to one?

Gabrielle Clemens will be speaking on May 16 on the new divorce laws.

We are planning to have a Candidate's Night before the September 6 state primaries. This would take place in the last week of August. There are now two Republicans and

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five Democrats running for the seat that Susan Fargo has held.

The Annual Meeting will be on May 24 at the Weston library at 6:30.

The LWVUS Convention will be in Washington D.C. in June. Barbara Flannery will attend it.

## **Gabrielle Clemens**

Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30

Josiah Smith Tavern

co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters  
and the Women's Community League

### **Overview of Massachusetts Alimony Reform**

Chapter 124, An Act Reforming Alimony in Massachusetts, was signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick on September 26, 2011. The Act takes effect on March 1, 2012, and *substantially* transforms alimony cases in Massachusetts. This new law changes the way alimony is calculated and the length of time it is to be paid. In addition, it provides for an opportunity to modify existing alimony orders.

If you are considering divorce, currently in negotiations/litigation, or have an existing alimony order, this new law will affect you. Learn what you need to know now.

Topics to be Discussed:

1. Overview of New law
2. Phasing In the New Law
3. Modifying Current Alimony Orders
4. Effect of New Alimony Law on Separation Agreements, Premarital and Post Marital Agreements
5. Tax Implications

Gabrielle has recently been featured on NECN, Bloomberg, and will be published in The American Journal of Family Law on this issue.

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## LWVMA COUNCIL 2012 - WORKSHOP REPORT

Kathie Strehle

**H**ow can we improve our membership recruiting and services? How can we make the LWV of Weston more visible and welcoming? Are our website and bulletin as useful as they could be? What online information can LWV members access to learn about other Leagues and their activities? Two workshop sessions addressed these questions.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our local membership is now about 50. While we may think most people in Weston are aware of what we do – Saturday forums, Town Crier coverage, candidates' nights, the banner in the Center – there are more ways to get attention and increase our membership. Some of the ideas presented:

- \*Offer a free trial membership for a few months, which would include access to the Bulletin
- \*Hand out postcards printed with the basic information about our voter service and calendar of events as people check in to Town Meeting

\*Hold a recycling “talk and swap” – bring good used items to a wine and cheese gathering, and trade things you don't want for those you do

\*Do studies on schools, which attract younger members

### ONLINE TOOLS

A welcoming website is crucial in both recruiting members and disseminating information, and it must be kept up to date. A good intuitive navigation system is necessary so the visitors can easily find how to get what they need. Some Leagues suggest using social network sites to build an online community.

Record keeping has been a longtime burden for local Leagues, including ours. Board members move, basements flood, and important documents are lost. The LWVMA is about to establish a permanent storage collection for such papers, including bylaws and financial records. This will be very helpful for Weston!

## CANDIDATES' NIGHT

Katty Chace

**T**he audience for our spring Candidates' Night was larger than it has been in recent years, but not as large as I had hoped for two exciting races. Luckily, the local cable station and the Town Crier got the word out with excellent follow-up coverage. We had invited uncontested candidates to speak briefly before the contested races, but only two of them chose to take advantage of that opportunity: Ed Coburn, our new Selectman,



Ed Coburn, Selectman

and Rosemary Tomaso, our new School Committee member.



Rosemary Tomaso, School Committee

We then spent about 45 minutes with the candidates for Moderator, Bill Sandalls and

Wendy Spector. They each presented a 5-minute statement about their backgrounds and their goals for the position, and answered written questions at length.

When they had finished, I scanned the audience to ascertain whether Mike Gordon, candidate for the Planning Board, had arrived yet from his

scheduled meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals. He hadn't, but luckily his teenage daughter Caitlin had come to read a statement on her father's behalf, so she and incumbent Pam Fox were able to deliver their presentations.



Left: Wendy Spector, Candidate for Moderator



Above: Bill Sandalls, Candidate for Moderator



Jean Thurston, Moderator for Candidates' Night.



After the presentations, candidates and audience members mingle for conversation and refreshments.

*Photos by Katherine Wolfthal*



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## COFFEE HOUR ON TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Katty Chace

Our Saturday coffee hour at the library with Selectman Michael Harrity on Town Meeting Warrant Articles was well attended. Michael started the discussion by focusing on the eight Citizens' Petitions (Articles 11 through 18). Bill Sandalls was present to explain his Article 11, which calls for a standing count on votes requiring a 2/3 majority, but allowing the smaller side of the vote to be counted first, then covering that number with votes from the other side. Other articles

discussed were one to increase the quorum required at a Town Meeting, changes to the dog regulations and changes in the permitted location of cell phone towers. Michael had predicted that the discussion of the Cat Rock cell phone towers was likely to be quite emotional, and, based on the ensuing discussion at the coffee hour, he was quite right about that. Charlie Hunt was present to explain and discuss the Hobbs Brook dam alternatives and their likely results.



Above: Selectman Michael Harrity and new selectman Ed Coburn listen to comments.



Bill Sandalls explains his proposal for counting the vote



Below: Charlie Hunt talks about the Hobbs Brook dam.



Above: Over coffee and refreshments, attendees discuss the warrant articles.

*Photos by Katherine Wolfthal*



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# **PUSHING BACK ON MONEY POLITICS, 2012**

*A Public Forum*

**Thursday, May 17th, 7:30-9:30 pm**  
Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium  
500 Walden Street, Concord  
*(Doors open at 7:00 pm. No reserved seating.)*

A panel of experts will share their views on the role of money in the 2012 election landscape and discuss options for citizen action in response.

Moderated by

**Tom Ashbrook**

Host of *On Point*, a production of 90.9 WBUR Boston

***Panelists include:***

- Lawrence Lessig** Roy L. Furman Professor of Law and Leadership, Harvard Law School, and Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University  
(<http://www.lessig.org/info/bio/>)
- Jeff Clements** Attorney and author  
(<http://corporationsarenotpeople.com/author/jeffclements/>)
- Mimi Marziani** Counsel for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
([http://www.brennancenter.org/people/marziani\\_mimi/](http://www.brennancenter.org/people/marziani_mimi/))

.....  
*Following the panel discussion, questions from the audience will be taken.  
Free and open to the public. Refreshments following the forum.*

For more information: [PushingBack@lwvcc.org](mailto:PushingBack@lwvcc.org) 978-254-1598

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## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Katty Chace

The first night of town meeting on Monday, May 7, covered Articles 1-17, and adjourned at 11:15. The meeting would reconvene on Wednesday night. The first ten articles dealt with straight-forward issues of the town budget and various enterprise budgets, as well as money to the stabilization fund and the post employment trust fund. They passed quite quickly and provoked little discussion. Articles 11-17 were citizens' petitions, and provoked more comment and heat.

Article 11 was Bill Sandalls's proposal that would require standing counts for non-unanimous supermajority votes, but allow the minority vote side to be counted first for efficiency's sake. It passed by a fairly wide margin: 203-86.

Articles 12 and 13 were presented by Isabella Jancourtz, and called for strict observance of Robert's Rules of Order by the Moderator at Town Meetings, and for more timely agendas and minutes from town committees. These articles both failed.

Articles 14, 15 and 16 were presented by William Crum. Article 14 called for term limits for Selectman, and was easily defeated. In response to Article 15, which called for raising the quorum for town Meeting from 40 to 160 voters, Selectman Michael Harrity proposed a compromising amendment which would raise the number to 80. This amendment was approved, and the altered motion was approved. Article 16, which would amend the dog by-laws in five different ways, did not pass.

Article 17 was offered by Lance Fortin, a resident of the Cat Rock neighborhood. It asked that the

town undertake a \$32,000 study of Distributed Antenna System (DAS) options, in preference to the tall cell phone tower at Cat Rock that was approved at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, in response to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which the Selectmen believed gave them no choice but to grant requests for large cell phone towers. After lengthy and impassioned debate on the subject, the article failed after a standing count.

At the second (and final) night of Town Meeting, the most debated issue was the Hobbs Brook dam. The presenters explained that the Conservation Commission had studied the matter in depth, and had split 5-2 in support of rebuilding an improved dam with a 50-foot spillway. Each side of the argument was presented by a member of the Commission, and several other speakers followed, extolling either the pleasures of the pond or the value of allowing the land to be returned to its natural state as a meadow (some said a marsh) with a brook running through it. Eventually the vote was 133-85, in favor of preserving the pond.

Article 18, which was a Citizens' Petition to allow a By-Right Use by business owners to eliminate the need for site plan review in some cases, was voted down. All other articles, including drainage projects, capital projects, water main rehabilitation, Community Preservation Act proposals and zoning by-law changes were accepted. Two articles, one to amend by-laws (stand-by generators as an accepted use) and an amended zoning by-law (definition of structure) were passed over, as was Article 26, which would have restored the Hobbs Brook land to its natural state, had the Pond not been preserved.



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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTON**

**ANNUAL MEETING 2012**



**GUEST SPEAKER**

**THE HONORABLE GREGORY C. FLYNN**

**WESTON RESIDENT AND**

**JUDGE  
OF THE WALTHAM DISTRICT COURT**



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTON 2012 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

6:30	Refreshments, socializing	
7:00	Guest Speaker	Hon. Gregory C. Flynn Judge of the Waltham District Court
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>	
	Call to order	Katty Chace
	Re-adoption of Local Positions	Katty Chace
	Budget Presentation	Kathie Strehle
	Election of 2012-2013 Officers and Directors	Katherine Wolfthal
	Adoption of Local Programs	Barbara Hill
	Adjournment	





**LWV WESTON Proposed Budget  
2011-2012**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>FY to 4/12/11</b>	<b>Budget 2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>Notes</b>
A. DUES	\$1,900.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,900.00	
B. CONTRIBUTIONS				
1. Member	\$735.00	\$500.00	\$700.00	
2. Non-member	\$93.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
C. FUNDRAISING				
1. Bulletin ads	\$495.00	\$600.00	\$500.00	
2. Fundraiser				
D. ANNUAL MEETING				
E. INTEREST	\$0.44	\$2.00	\$1.00	
<b>INCOME SUB TOTAL</b>		\$3,652.00	\$3,151.00	
F. (TO) FROM RESERVES		\$718.00	\$194.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,223.44</b>	<b>\$4,370.00</b>	<b>\$3,345.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
A. SUPPORT				
1. State PMP	\$897.00	\$1,300.00	\$900.00	
2. National PMP	\$1,188.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00	
B. OPERATING				
1. Supplies		\$25.00	\$25.00	
C. BULLETIN				
1. Postage		\$20.00	\$60.00	(Most bulletins online but a small number are mailed)
2. Printing		\$100.00	\$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		\$0.00	\$25.00	
2. Annual		\$100.00	\$100.00	
G. DELEGATES & AFFILIATES				
1. Conventions				
a. LWVUS		\$100.00	\$100.00	
b. LWVM accrual		\$100.00	\$100.00	
c. Workshops		\$50.00	\$50.00	
H. VOTER SERVICE				
1. Voter education		\$25.00	\$25.00	
2. Fall candidates' night		\$50.00	\$0.00	
3. Spring candidates' night		\$50.00	\$50.00	
4. Coffee hours		\$25.00	\$25.00	
I. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES				
1. Publications incl website		\$200.00	\$200.00	
2. Program		\$100.00	\$100.00	incl. Civics Bee
3. High school award		\$50.00	\$50.00	
J. POSITION SUPPORT				
1. Expenses		\$50.00	\$50.00	
2. Donations		\$100.00	\$100.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,085.00</b>	<b>\$4,370.00</b>	<b>\$3,345.00</b>	



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## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2012-2013

### Officers:

President	Katty Chace*
Secretary	Kathleen Rousseau*
Treasurer	Kathie Strehle*

### Directors:

Voter Service	
Membership	Rochelle Nemrow
Bulletin Editor	Katherine Wolfthal
Legislation	Katty Chace
Natural Resources	Barbara Fullerton
Liaison to the PTO	Beth Keane
Advertising and Liaison to the 300 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Committee	Robin Coutts

### At Large

Diana Chaplin  
Barbara Flannery  
David Hutcheson  
Lenore Lobel  
Robin Reisman

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

## PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAMS 2012-2013

**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.