



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

September, 2012

No. 147

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 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

Welcome back to a new League year of election excitement! On November 6, in addition to electing a new state senator, a United States senator and a president, we will also vote on three referendum questions: one on Death With Dignity, one on legalizing marijuana for medical purposes, and one on availability of motor vehicle repair information.

On Tuesday, October 30 at 4:30, the League and the Council on Aging will co-sponsor a forum on the Death with Dignity question in the Great Room at the Community Center. More details can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Weston League will co-sponsor with the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues a Candidates' Forum with Congressman Ed Markey and his Republican challenger Tom Tierney, on the afternoon of Sunday, October 21. Congressman Markey has long represented Weston, but the district has only recently been reconfigured to include the towns of Wayland and Sudbury. This event is still in the planning stage, and its location has not been determined, although the Wayland Town Building may be the first choice. Please check next month's Bulletin for final details.

On Saturday, October 27, at 11:00 am in the library's Community Room, our first coffee hour of the year will focus on the three referendum questions. Using the Secretary of State's publication which presents pros and cons for each question, we will discuss among ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal.

This is the time of year we ask you to renew your membership and send in your dues. We have kept the dues at the same levels again this year. You can find a membership form elsewhere in this Bulletin. We need you all to stay strong and vibrant.

**CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2012**

October 3, Wednesday.....	Presidential Debate
October 9, Tuesday..... 9:15 a. m. - 155 Conant Rd. (Katherine Wolfthal – 781-891-9549)	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome
October 11, Thursday.....	Vice-Presidential debate
October 16, Tuesday.....	Presidential Debate
October 21, Sunday p.m..... Location and time to be announced	Candidates’ Event for Congressman Ed Markey and Republican challenger Tom Tierney
October 22, Monday.....	Presidential Debate
October 27, Saturday..... 11:00 a.m. – Community Room, Weston Public Library	Coffee Hour to discuss referendum questions
October 30, Tuesday 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Weston Community Center	Forum to discuss “Death with Dignity” ballot question
November 6, Tuesday..... 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Presidential Election



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

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 5th Middlesex District

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

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@state.ma.us

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The LWVW board meeting was held on September 11 at the home of Robin Coutts.

Treasurer's Report: We are now an official 501-C4 organization. The LWVW is now keeping the official records (by-laws, etc.) for the local leagues in the state. We are down to \$1600.00 in the bank.

The Weston High School government students will get extra credit for community service connected with civic activities. Beth Keane suggested that students might be willing to help recruit new LWV members. She will contact the school.

Death with Dignity: Kathie, Robin Reisman and Katty have been working with the COA, planning a program on this issue. This will be non-partisan panel with Jim Vernon and Jane Brigham, with Mitch Finnegan (health and PE director for the schools) as moderator. This will take place on Oct 30 at 4:30 – 6:00. One question about this measure was what effect it would have on life insurance.

Our banner was up in the Center before the primary election.

We will offer rides to the polls for the November election.

We will try to set up a Coffee Hour on the two ballot issues of Death with Dignity and Medical Marijuana for November 3.

Weston 300 – The schedule of major events has now been set: January 12 kick-off, June 1 at the High School, October 5 parade. We will have to pick a good time for the LWV Scavenger Hunt. We will also be hosting the Civics Bee this year in March. We will see if the Town Hall will be available for it.

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Death With Dignity - A Ballot Question

Tuesday, October 30, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at the Weston Community Center.

On November 6, the citizens of Massachusetts will have the opportunity to vote on a referendum, entitled "Death With Dignity". If approved, it would give permission to physicians under specific conditions to prescribe lethal doses of medication for terminally ill patients. The Weston Council on Aging and the Weston League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring a discussion to explain the ballot initiative. Mitch Finnegan, Health and Physical Education Director for the Weston Schools will moderate the discussion. Panelists will include Weston residents Jane Brigham, Interfaith Chaplain and James Vernon, a surgeon in practice at Newton-Wellesley Hospital with 40 years' experience. Sign up in advance by calling 781-786-6280, or email westoncoa@westonmass.org to ensure ample seating.

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**LWVUS 50TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
WASHINGTON DC
JUNE 8 – 12, 2012**

Report submitted by Barbara Flannery, LWVW

The National Convention brought together 800 members of the League of Women Voters from across the country, representing State boards and organizations, local Leagues within states, and also members of the National Board who, among their other works, are responsible for planning each biennial meeting of the National Convention.

Massachusetts delegates attending the Convention included the President of the State League, from Haverhill, MA, and other members of the Board; others from local Leagues throughout the state, as well as the Chair of the National Board's by-laws committee, from Wellesley, MA, who is now president of their local League.

The primary issue of interest at the Convention was Campaign Finance Reform, a position of the National Board and extended through additional suggestions from other Leagues. The combined Massachusetts Leagues of Concord-Carlisle, Sudbury and Northampton's Resolution was amended in Caucus. The final version of the League position, as amended, was introduced by the LWV of Greater Haverhill, MA (the League of the President of the LWV of Massachusetts), and passed.

The compromise and final resolution from the Caucus was worked out with the Massachusetts Leagues, the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force, and the

California Leagues, agreeing to modifications that do not bind the League to support a constitutional amendment. The resolution recognizes that, while League support for a constitutional amendment is possible, this support would be a decision made strategically by the National Board.

After all the League's careful and thorough work toward a resolution of its position on Campaign Finance Reform, the U.S. Supreme Court, shortly thereafter, on June 25, declined to reconsider its 2010 decision (in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*) not to restrict the use of corporate and labor union money in political campaigns.

Efforts to override a Supreme Court decision can be tried, and would require both a 2/3 vote of the members of the House of Representatives, as well as a 2/3 vote of all members of the Senate.

The other most significant issue that was definitely being addressed at the Convention, along with suggestions and efforts to "get out the vote" in this year's presidential election, was an all-out effort to attract new and young members to the League, and to build membership through the use of social media. Training for using Facebook and Twitter, which are available to the League, is being developed at the National Board for all Leagues to download. The Board members also encourage Leagues to find young volunteers to help in the training, once the

training sites are available from the National Board.

Talks by invited speakers at the Convention can be downloaded by visiting

<http://library.lwv.org/events-series/convention-2012> .

The 2014 LWVUS Convention will be held in Dallas, Texas.

Some other topics discussed during the Convention were related to elections. Some states are particularly exposed to candidates' negative advertising. Another issue is that Super PACs are able to pay large sums of

money to the media for candidates' campaign messages, without identifying the sources of their funds. It was also discussed that cable and the Internet are not regulated in what they show on their channels or in their messaging.

In reference to the Supreme Court, comment was made on Sandra Day O'Connor's position that judges should be appointed, not elected.

Reference was made to the Gore v. Bush Supreme Court decision, in which Gore had more votes in the popular election, but Bush more Electoral College votes. The Electoral College endures.

Weston 300 Announces Master Schedule of Events for 2013

August 30, 2012... Weston, MA: Weston 300 Committee has announced its Master Schedule of Events, and presented the plan to the Board of Selectman on Tuesday, August 29th. The plan was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. The Board of Selectman appointed the members of the Weston 300 Committee and charged them with designing an appropriate strategy to celebrate Weston's tercentennial year, starting January of 2013.

The Weston 300 Master Schedule of Events includes three significant public celebrations that highlight different aspects of Weston's rich cultural history. In addition, there are several diverse events, campaigns and displays that focus on the Weston public schools, senior citizens, the arts, music, religion, athletics and more.

The mission of Weston 300 is to raise sponsorship funds to implement a celebration that reflects well on the Weston community, and to create a

legacy for Weston for the future. The vision of this legacy is to fund the Weston Legacy Trail.



Plans have been approved to rebuild the Field School, and to re-apportion the land into a more user -friendly, environmentally appropriate campus. The campus design is the perfect setting for a beautiful, natural, one-mile trail connecting the Field School, Case House, Library and the elementary schools. The Weston Legacy Trail will be ideal for children, seniors, joggers and pedestrians of all ages.

The Weston 300 committee has formed a not-for-profit to fund the beautifying of this Trail. In its sponsorship strategy, Weston 300 will offer residents opportunities to host handsome park benches, statuaries, park art, stone pavers and other natural betterments to this campus and the public.

The Town of Weston is highly supportive of this initiative to celebrate the tercentennial year, and the Legacy Trail. The funds necessary for both initiatives are to be raised entirely through private donations, and are not funded by the Town. Donations are welcome, and further information is available at www.Weston300.org.

Weston 300 is chaired by Dusty S. Rhodes of Weston. Joining her on the all-volunteer board are Diana Chaplin, Robin Peakes Coutts, Mark L. Curelop, Elizabeth B. Eaton, Ann S. Fain, Deirdre A. Freiberg, Elizabeth R. Hochberger, Aubrey W. Kief, Douglas W. MacDougall, Lee C. Marsh, and Thomas D. Wintle.

About Weston 300 Organization:

Weston 300 is dedicated to celebrating the remarkable history and 300th anniversary of the

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dusty Rhodes

Work: 781-786-6275

Email: weston300@weston300.org

Town of Weston, Massachusetts. Spanning from its rural farmland beginnings to the thriving community it is today, the 300th anniversary is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate, reflect and showcase the varied aspects of this historic town. Organized by the Weston 300 Committee, the voluntary leaders are committed to creating and supervising the implementation of events, campaigns, and ceremonies related to the Tercentenary throughout 2013. Through fundraising and personal donations, the Weston 300 will support the Weston Legacy Trail, creating a user friendly, environmentally appropriate campus with a natural, one-mile trail that will wind around the Weston Public Library, Case House, Community Center, Field School and the elementary schools. The design includes benches, sculpture, fountains and natural stone walls, in addition to area plantings and indigenous trees. For more information on this initiative on ways to participate, please visit www.weston300.org.
Weston 300



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League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2012-2013

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 form to: Rochelle Nemrow, 61 Beaver Rd., 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.