



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

December, 2011

No. 141

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

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

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

Voter Service.....Sally Currier
781-235-9506

Membership..... Rochelle Nemrow
781-790-1138

Bulletin..... Katherine Wolfthal
Editor 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

I wrote a letter to the Editor of the Town Crier about the dissatisfaction I have heard from some about the Field School vote at the November 14 Town Meeting. The article needed a 2/3 majority since it involved bonding. Letters to the Editor since then indicate that not everyone in the audience was convinced that the 2/3 majority was achieved. Our letter suggested standing vote counts in cases where bonding is involved.

There will be a Coffee Hour on Saturday, January 21 with Alice Peisch. We'll ask Alice to discuss her priorities for this legislative session and to answer any questions the audience might have on any topic. We have also invited Senator Susan Fargo to attend, also, but haven't yet received a response.

On Tuesday, February 7th we will hold a voter registration drive during the lunch periods at the High School to register students who will be 18 and eligible to vote by the March 6 Massachusetts presidential primary. We figure that about half of the seniors will be 18 by then. Beth Keane and Barbara Hill, both parents of High School students, have volunteered to staff this event. There will also be someone from the Town Clerk's office at the registration table.

Considerable time was spent at our November board meeting discussing our project for Weston300. Our "scavenger hunt", "quiz" is evolving with concepts like adventure and discovery, and we hope will be an enjoyable way for families and individuals to explore many aspects of their community, including historical, geographical, topographical, and civic. Stay tuned for more details (but we don't want to give too much away!).

Please use the membership form enclosed in this Bulletin to renew your League membership. When you join, you support the League's activities at the local, state and national levels.



CALENDAR DECEMBER 2011 – MARCH 2012

December 25, Sunday	Christmas Day
January 1, Sunday	New Year's Day
January 3, Tuesday	Iowa Caucus
January 10, Tuesday 9:15 a.m., 376 Glen Road (Barbara Hill, 781-235-8861)	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome!
January 21, Saturday 11:00a.m., Weston Public Library Community Room	LWVW Coffee Hour with Alice Peisch
February 7, Tuesday 10:15a.m. – 12:15p.m., Weston High School	Voter Registration
March 5, Tuesday	MA Presidential Primary
March 25, Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m., Wayland Middle School	2012 Civics Bee

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: sfargo@senate.state.ma.us
Home: (781) 259-9623

State Representative 4th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617)722-2320
(781)237-4719
State House, Room 26
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The meeting was held on December 6, at the home of Kathleen Rousseau.

Kathie Strehle reported that she had sent in all the necessary forms and \$100 to the IRS so that we will have tax-exempt status. This included a **new set of by-laws**. These were approved temporarily at this meeting, and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Coffee Hour: Alice Peisch will come on January 21. Susan Fargo had not yet let us know if she can come on that date.

The Field School funding exemption passed easily on the ballot at the town election. The Town Meeting vote was not counted, although some people thought it was not clear that there was a 2/3 majority. We need a process that is more certain. Wayland will be using clickers to vote electronically at their next Town Meeting.

Weston 300 –David has some great ideas about our part of the celebration (a type of scavenger hunt). We do want questions that will encourage people to travel around town and find interesting sites. We will produce a treasure map with locations of the sites of interest. This will be a learning experience, with no winner.

We discussed whether we would like to sponsor **a talk by Gordon Martin** in conjunction with the Wayland Sudbury leagues. He has written "Count Them One by One" about blacks getting the right to vote. We would be interested if he addresses current issues with new restrictive voting laws, especially if there are suggestions of what we can do about them.

Transportation Forum, Newton: A lot of the focus was on transportation for children and the elderly and on bike lanes.

On February 7 a **voter registration drive** will be held at the High School.

Local Study on the School start-time: The question is whether we want to have a formal study of this issue.

The schools are currently looking at this, so a study might be a duplication of effort. If we don't study it we won't be able to take a stand on the issue.

The question was raised about whether Weston had a procedure to check on its most vulnerable residents. The Council on Aging does have programs for some of this work.

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.

**Coldwell Banker Residential
Brokerage**
781-894-5555
426 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

**Daryl Christopher Salon
and Day Spa**
781 890 9211
at HealthPoint
84o Winter Street, Waltham, MA

Florentine Frames
781 647 1249
478 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

The Gift Gallery
781 894 1633
464 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

Ogilvie's
781 894 1265
39 Warren Avenue, Weston, MA

Omni Foods Supermarkets
781 894 0675
21 Center Street, Weston, MA

Weston Travel Service
781 891 9110
483 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA



COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE FINE WORK OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

CONSISTENTLY
WESTON'S #1 REAL ESTATE COMPANY

WWW.NEWENGLANDMOVES.COM

(781) 894-5555 · 426 BOSTON POST ROAD · WESTON, MA 02493

©2009 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Employer. Equal Housing Opportunity. Owned and operated by NRT, LLC

REPORT DEER SIGHTINGS AND OTHER DEER INFORMATION

From the town Website <http://weston.govoffice.com>

Weston's [Conservation Commission](#) is asking residents to report deer sightings and to take a quick deer impact survey.

The Town of Weston has experienced a [rising deer density](#) in recent years. Problems associated with a high deer population, such as increased Lyme disease risk, property damage to landscape plants and crops, automobile-deer collisions, and damage to conservation land, are raising concern among some residents.

Help the Town gather information.

The [Deer Impact Survey](#) asks residents to comment on the impact of deer on their lives by noting incidents of Lyme disease, deer/car collisions, and destructions of gardens and landscaping.

The survey, **which should be completed only once**, will document how deer affect our daily lives.

Take the DEER IMPACT Survey here:
<http://weston.govoffice.com>

The [Deer Sighting Survey](#) can be completed every time a resident sees deer in town, and will document the number and location of deer observed. The cumulative

information from residents' reported observations will give us a better understanding of the size and movement of Weston's deer population. Residents are encouraged to report all deer seen between November 1st and January 31st. The results will be presented during a Public Meeting in March.

Report your DEER SIGHTINGS at

<http://weston.govoffice.com>

For more information on the rising deer populations and its ecological impact, please read the Conservation Commission's [Weston Deer Information](#) article or [Weston's Deer Fact](#)



WESTON300.

Our town's 300th anniversary falls in 2013. A Town committee, including our own League member Robin Coutts, is exploring good ways to celebrate. League board members feel that a "Discover Weston" scavenger/trek/quest could be a fun and informative way to celebrate our town. Townspeople would pick up their gamesheet at Town Hall. Following the clues provided they would learn about town and hopefully have fun doing it. Our intent is that this should be an active, family-friendly activity, with participation and discovery being the rewards.



***Omni Foods
is proud
to support
the fine work
of the
League of
Women Voters.***

***Omni Foods*
SUPERMARKETS**

21 Center Street, Weston, MA
Phone: 781-894-0675

200 Boylston St. (Route 9),
Chestnut Hill, MA
Phone: 617-558-3364

**APPEAL FROM RUDY RUGGLES, WERC CHAIR
AND WENDY DIOTALEVI, WESTON PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR**

WERC "BUDDY SYSTEM" VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To Members of the Weston Emergency Reserve Corps,

The recent storms and resulting blackouts have tested several of the Town's emergency response systems and practices. Thankfully, while the experiences were inconvenient and uncomfortable for many, all residents emerged healthy and with relatively minor property damage. The hard work of the town's fire, police, DPW, and other town agencies paid off and we owe them our thanks. Many thanks, too, to all who volunteered to assist with area MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) deployments.

In reviewing the response to these events, there were quite a few good lessons learned. One area where we realized that the WERC could play a key role in the future is in establishing a "buddy system" to check in with the town's at-risk people in case of a general emergency. While the fire and police departments can respond to incidents, they are not able to check in on all of the people who might need assistance just to see if they are alright. We would like to have the WERC create a list of volunteers who could play this role, calling or in some cases visiting people to make sure that they don't need help.

The Council on Aging is assembling a starter list of people who would like to have someone check on them in case of a general emergency. Once that is established, we would let others in town know how to get added to the list, accounting for the fact that not everyone who could use a check-in is elderly

In the meantime, the WERC is creating a list of people who would be able to check in on others. We are starting by asking current WERC volunteers if they are willing to play this role. We will add to this list by going to churches and other existing community organizations to seek volunteers as well. We will then create a buddy system (with backups), and introduce people, in person and virtually, so that everyone is comfortable with the arrangement.

So, **would you be willing to check in with a few people if there is a general emergency?** Please let us know. rudyruggles3@gmail.com or diotalevi.w@westonmass.org (781-893-7320 ext. 332)

**For more information on the Medical Reserve Corps,
see the following page.**

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

Sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General, in cooperation with
The White House's USA Freedom Corps and
The Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps

Medical Reserve Corps

National Priorities...Meeting Local Needs

About the Medical Reserve Corps

- ❖ The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** was founded after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked Americans to volunteer in support of their country. **MRC** is a specialized component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the nation.
- ❖ **MRC** units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers – medical professionals and others – who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. **MRC** volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.
- ❖ **MRC** volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Other community members, such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors, can fill other vital support positions.

Organizing an MRC unit

Every community is different, so every community will approach the task of establishing its **MRC** unit differently. General guidelines covering many key issues to assist with planning are available on the **MRC** website, www.medicalreservecorps.gov. You will also find sample brochures, presentations, and information documents created by other **MRC** units.

Communities also find out about promising practices by exchanging information and their lessons learned on the **MRC** Message Board. **MRC** communities nationwide are implementing innovative ideas on strengthening their region's everyday public health infrastructure while increasing emergency preparedness through teambuilding activities and exercises such as flu clinics and disaster drills.

Any government agency or not-for profit organization can sponsor an **MRC** unit, including health departments, boards of health, faith-based organizations, emergency management agencies, universities, and Citizen Corps Councils. Partnerships are key to the success and sustainability of the **MRC**, so leaders are strongly encouraged to establish a strong community network with response partners, government officials, and even local businesses to help identify needs, negotiate differences, work out conflicts, and optimize shared resources.

What Can MRC Volunteers Do?

Support local public health initiatives and the goals of the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010, while advancing the priorities of the Surgeon General:

- ❖ Promoting disease prevention
- ❖ Improving health literacy
- ❖ Eliminating health disparities
- ❖ Enhancing public health preparedness

Assist local hospitals and health departments with surge personnel needs.

Participate in mass prophylaxis and vaccination exercises and community disaster drills.

Train with local emergency response partners.

And more...

www.medicalreservecorps.gov



D A R Y L
CHRISTOPHER

Wellness Salon and Day Spa

840 Winter Street Waltham MA 02451
781-890-9211



'Tis the season of giving...

Give a Gift
and
Get a Gift

Purchase a Holiday Gift Card
valued at \$100.00
and we will
GIVE YOU
a \$25.00 Gift Card

With each Gift Card purchase
your name will be entered into our
WIN a \$500.00 Gift Card
drawing (12/31/11)

www.dchristopher.com

NEWS FROM THE STATE LEAGUE

Reported by Katty Chace

Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

In Support of HB 338 - An Act to Provide Improved Medicare for All and
SB 501 - An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts

By Judy Deutsch - LWVMA Health Care Specialist

December 15, 2011

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly supports Improved Medicare for All and urges immediate passage and implementation because individuals, businesses and the Commonwealth cannot withstand for long the high costs of our present health care system.

When Improved Medicare for All is implemented law, it will:

- guarantee every Massachusetts resident first-class health care coverage;
- reduce costs to the state, employers and individuals;
- save \$9.7 million by eliminating for-profit middle men and administrative waste caused by private insurance companies who provide no health care and often deny it;
- include cost containment measures;
- be funded by small taxes on employers, employees, the self-employed, and unearned income (excluding Social Security and pensions) and by federal funds already supplied to Massachusetts for health care through Medicaid and Medicare; and
- train people who lose jobs in the health insurance industry to take jobs that will be needed in the health care sector.

I know some of your colleagues, and perhaps some of you, are fearful the implementation of Improved Medicare for All will result in job losses. For those who didn't, I wish you had accepted the invitation to be present in the House Members' Lounge on November 14th of this year when Dr. William C. Hsiao, Professor of Economics at the Harvard School of Public Health, explained how Improved Medicare for All would actually create more jobs by enhancing the amount of health care given, creating more jobs in the health care sector than people currently working in the health insurance industry. I also recommend that you read the presentation, "Solving the Health Care Financing Mess" prepared by Dr. Gerald Friedman, Professor of Economics at U-Mass, Amherst, which has been provided to you by Mass-Care.

During the last 4 years, people in 24 Massachusetts towns have overwhelmingly voted in support of Improved Medicare for All. They know that it is vitally needed. Our present system of health care financing is not providing adequate health care all Massachusetts residents. Many who are covered by insurance cannot afford the co-pays and deductibles, and the rising cost of health insurance is wreaking havoc in state, municipal, business and individual budgets. At the same time, health insurance companies are making huge profits and many of their CEOs continue to receive outrageous salary and bonus packages.

The LWVMA asks that you support the citizens and communities of Massachusetts, rather than the health insurance industry. You can accomplish this by moving this bill out of your Committee, working to see that it is voted on favorably by the entire Legislature and Governor, and then assuring that it is implemented.

Thank you for your time.



WARNING FROM THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

As reported on the Weston Town Website

Increase in Coyote Activity

To all pet owners;

Please be advised that the Town of Weston is experiencing an increase in coyote activity.

Based on the number of sightings being reported, it appears as though their numbers and activity levels are increasing.

Coyotes do not normally present a threat to humans and will usually run away if challenged by voice, a loud whistle, or by throwing something at them. However, **small dogs and cats are at risk of being preyed upon** regardless of what part of Town in which they may live.

Pet owners should know that if their pets are outside and unattended, they are at risk. **Please take precaution.**

It is impossible to predict where and when coyotes will be active. At the present time, it appears that there is a higher degree of activity along the Route 128 belt in Weston, running from the Town of Lincoln line south to Route 20.

If you should encounter a coyote on your walk or in your yard, you are encouraged to challenge the coyote by voice, a loud whistle, or by throwing something at them.

Coyotes are usually shy and elusive and are frequently seen individually or in small groups, consisting of the parents, this year's pups (4-8) and on occasion, last year's pups. Group size is not consistent.

Electric collars will keep your pet on your property but it will not deter a coyote.

Valuable information regarding coyotes, their habits, and methods to protect your pets from them is available online from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. Please visit

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_coyotes.htm

Richard A. Murray
Animal Control Officer
November 22, 2011



COA Volunteers Needed

Looking to get involved this season? New volunteers at the Council on Aging are always welcome – current priorities include:

FISH (Friends in Service Helping) is one of Weston’s most highly valued volunteer programs. **FISH Driver** -- Transport a senior to a medical appointment. Drive at your convenience. Rides are based on your availability and location preferences. **FISH Caller** -- Match available volunteer drivers with seniors needing rides to medical appointments. Callers are “on duty” one day per month, typically managing 2-4 requests.

Meals on Wheels Driver

Spend less than an hour delivering weekday lunches (and saying “Hello”) to homebound Weston seniors.

One-Time Volunteer

Celebrate a birthday, assist with shopping, help run a one-time event - there are a variety of single opportunities to help. Tasks are scheduled using our community calendar at www.lotsahelpinghands.com.

For more information on these and other opportunities, contact Leila Hewitt, Volunteer Coordinator, at 781-786-6280 or hewitt.l@westonmass.org.



League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012

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.