



# The League of Women Voters Of Weston

February, 2009

No. 114

## 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](mailto:kate@weichi.com)

It's 50 degrees outdoors as I write, which must mean spring is just around the corner, right?

We had a successful coffee hour last weekend with Susan Fargo and Alice Peisch at the library, which we try to do every year just as the new legislative season is just getting launched. It was gratifying to see some new and unfamiliar faces there. We are hoping to plan our next coffee hour devoted to the new DPW building and other project of the Permanent Building Committee.

Our biggest upcoming event is the Civics Bee on March 1 (a Sunday afternoon) from 2-4:30 at the Wayland Town Building at the intersection of Route 20 and Route 126. Our Weston team (3 adults, 3 High Schoolers, and 3 Middle Schoolers) will be competing against teams from Wayland and Sudbury to answer questions about the federal government, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Joe Mullin, Ned Rossiter, Barbara Hill, Hannah Hill and Cyana Chilton are all team members, and social studies teachers from the High School and Middle School are helping us find our few missing participants. School Superintendent Cheryl Maloney has agreed to serve as a judge. Diana Chaplin, Kathie Strehle and I have all been coordinating with the other towns and constructing questions. It should be fun and stimulating. Plan to come and support your home team!

Our long-awaited League Book Group discussion of Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* has been postponed from February 12 to Tuesday, March 3. We will meet at 7:30 at Rochelle Nemrow's house at 61 Beaver Road. I have just started the book, and am finding it fascinating. Feel free to join us.

On Monday, March 9 the Town Caucus will take place at 7:30 in the upstairs auditorium at the Town Hall. Each board in town has at least one member whose term has expired, and although many will be running again, this is your opportunity to throw a

hat in the ring, and make elections (scheduled for Saturday, May 9) exciting. Democracy is at its best when voters have choices.

The state League's Day on the Hill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4. Usually at least a couple of board members attend this unveiling of the state League's legislative priorities for the new year, and we would love to have you join us

if you can.

Also scheduled in March, on Thursday the 12th, is the state League's Guardian of Democracy Award dinner, honoring Paul Guzzi, President and CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and former Secretary of State. Congressman Barney Frank and Ralph Martin will be featured speakers. Call me if you might like to attend.

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY – MAY 2009

<b>March 1, Sunday</b> ..... <b>Hearing Room, Wayland Town Building</b> <b>41 Cochituate Rd. (Rtes. 20/126), Wayland</b>	<b>Civics Bee – sponsored by</b> <b>Wayland, Weston, Sudbury</b>
<b>March 3, Tuesday</b> ..... <b>7:30 P.M., 61 Beaver Rd.</b> <b>(Rochelle Nemrow, (781) 790-1138</b>	<b>LWW Book Group:</b> <b>Michael Pollan,</b> <b>“The Omnivore’s Dilemma”</b>
<b>March 4, Wednesday</b> ..... <b>Massachusetts State House (see flyer in this Bulletin)</b>	<b>LWVMA Day on the Hill</b>
<b>March 9, Monday</b> ..... <b>8:00 P.M., Town Hall Auditorium</b>	<b>Town Caucus</b>
<b>March 10, Tuesday</b> ..... <b>9:15 A.M., 376 Glen Road</b> <b>(Barbara Hill, 781-235-8861)</b>	<b>LWW Open Meeting</b>
<b>March 12, Thursday</b> ..... <b>6:30 P.M., Boston Marriott Copley Place</b>	<b>Guardian of Democracy</b> <b>Award Dinner</b>
<b>May 9, Saturday</b> ..... <b>Weston Town Hall</b>	<b>Town Elections</b>
<b>May 11, Monday</b> ..... <b>7:45 P.M., Weston High School Auditorium</b>	<b>Weston Town Meeting</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 Edward M. Kennedy  
2400 JFK Building  
Boston, MA 02203  
(617)565-3170  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-4543  
[senator@kennedy.senate.gov](mailto:senator@kennedy.senate.gov)

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

#### State Representative 4<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch  
(617)722-2230  
(781)237-4719  
State House, Room 26  
Boston MA 02133-1054  
E-mail: [rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:rep.alicepeisch@hou.state.ma.us)

The Board met at the home of Barbara Fullerton.

Treasurer's report: We have paid 3/4 of our yearly national per-member-payment and 1/2 of the state PMP. While a number of people have renewed recently, our membership has decreased this year. It was decided that we should raise our dues so they are slightly higher than our PMP payments instead of losing money on every member. Perhaps we should keep the due so that we always have them high enough to make about \$2 per person above the PMP.

Coffee Hour: Peisch and Fargo were at our last coffee hour. We were happy to see that some new people were in attendance. Transportation was the biggest topic of conversation. They are generally happy about the new speaker, but he is in favor of gambling.

Kay McCahan suggested that we have a coffee hour about the DPW building. The committee has been working very hard to make it a green building. We could expand this session to include what is being done with other town buildings. We should have a member of the permanent building committee, someone working on the green aspects of building, and someone from the tavern committee. We will schedule this for late March or April.

Membership: We have 54 members this year. We discussed whether we should have at least a once-a-year printed bulletin, probably with the renewal form. Would the ability to join on line help? We could set up something to accept Pay-Pal and let the person pay the fee for this use. Robin Nemrow found that there is a company which would give us a web site with the ability to register on-line. It would cost about \$400 a year for an unlimited number of sites. Rochelle will talk to the state league president about the LWVM buying this for all of the leagues in the state.

Fund-Raiser: We have discussed having a fund-raising party with a really interesting speaker. Any ideas about topics and/or individuals that might be of interest would

be appreciated. Right now the economy seems to be the hot topic.

Why do we belong to the League? We must remind people that we really do something of value. We provide forums for people to learn about town issues; we raised consciousness about the problems with artificial fields. The state and local leagues are able to lobby on the many issues that the league has positions on when they come up.

Civics Bee – March 1, 2:00-4:30 at the Wayland Town House.

We have the team of adults: Joe Mullin, Ned Rossiter, and Barbara Hill, and High School students: Hannah Hill and Cyana Chilton. The Middle School teacher said that he would have a mini-competition in the classrooms for positions on the team. Susan Fargo said that she would arrange for the winning team to visit the state house.

## OUR LEAGUE WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!

FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR LEAGUE AND ITS ACTIVITIES, GET VOTER INFORMATION,  
READ PAST ISSUES OF OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN.  
BE INFORMED ON OUR LOCAL POSITIONS.

<http://www.westonlww.org>

## LWVW Book Group

Please note that the date of our meeting has been changed.

It is now scheduled for **Tuesday, March 3**, at 7:30 P.M.

We will be reading "The Omnivore's Dilemma," by Michael Pollan.

For further information please contact Rochelle Nemrow, at (781) 790-1138.

# Day on the Hill Annual Lobby Day



## Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public's Trust

Wednesday March 4, 2009 | Statehouse Boston, MA

**9:00 a.m. Registration & Reception – Nurses' Hall**

Come meet your legislators and join us for a light breakfast.

**10:00 – 12:30 Program – Gardner Auditorium**

Hear featured speakers on the issues.

**12:30 – Lobby Your Legislators**

**Experts Scheduled to appear on the panel:**

**Janet Domenitz, Executive Director, MassPirg**

**William R. Keating, Norfolk District Attorney**

**Judith C. Meredith, Founder and Executive Director, The Public Policy Institute and author,  
"Lobbying on a Shoestring"**

**Pam Wilmot, Executive Director, Common Cause**

Contact your League's leaders for information on lobbying your legislators.

A panel discussion on transparency within our Commonwealth, with experts in the fields of regulation, legislation, budget, and public access to information, will define the process and problems with transparency and how the League and its members can most effectively address those problems. Specialists will discuss legislative priorities in the 2009-2010 session. After the discussion members will have the opportunity to lobby their Legislators on League priorities.

**Hate driving in Boston's traffic?**

**Well you don't have to.**

**The State Office will pay for a FILL-A-BUS-TER, AGAIN!**

**Contact the State Office (617) 523-2999 or**

**e-mail [lwwma@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwma@lwwma.org)**



## INAUGURATION DAY ON THE WASHINGTON MALL

Sally Currier

I am not a lover of big crowds. Therefore, although I had some interest in being present for Barack Obama's inauguration on January 20, I was happy to join fellow LWV friends to watch on the television. However, when my only sister, who lives in DC, urged me to join her to see the sites that weekend on the Washington Mall, I changed my mind and booked a flight.

I am so pleased that I did. Although we attended no official events that required tickets, we experienced much excitement and, dare I say, inspiration, by walking the streets and standing in the midst of the enthusiastic and diverse crowds.

On Sunday morning, we bundled up for the cold and headed down 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on foot toward the Lincoln Memorial to attend the "star-studded" concert. We soon joined an orderly procession of people who disembarked from buses and poured out of the subway, directed by National Guardsmen on the street corners. Entrance to the Mall was through a security tent, in which exceedingly friendly police checked our bags and the inside of our coats. The crowd was jovial. Many of us exchanged jokes as we reluctantly tried out the port-o-potties. One woman from Alabama asked me to wait outside for her while she went nervously stepped inside!

We settled ultimately about halfway between the stage and the WWII Memorial. It was very cold but the spirit of the diverse crowd was calm and cooperative. There were a couple of "Arrest

Bush" signs, but these were not at all common. By the time the Obamas and the Bidens arrived on the stage, our feet were blocks of ice but the excitement was rising. By the time Bruce Springsteen sang, and soon after, Mary Blige - one of Obama's favorites- the crowd began to really warm up. We were so cold after waiting, that we left early, but I still smile when I remember walking past the Interior Department along the side of Mall, listening to James Taylor's words "Shower the people you love with love" , or at least those are the words I remember. Warm moment.

On Monday, we walked to the White House but much of it was blocked from view by trailers. Again, military police were on every corner. We did get to see the beautiful church where the Obamas went for the prayer service before the inauguration.

I guess everyone was an official that week. Near White House, we heard yet another siren -one of the loudest from a very loud weekend. When this would happen, people usually stopped and looked, anticipating a sighting of one important personage or another. This time, it was a troupe (obviously official) of ten tow-trucks! It seemed kind of silly and we all laughed as they hurtled past.

On Tuesday morning, again we headed toward the Lincoln Memorial, anticipating a huge crowd. Again, we joined an orderly procession of people

on the streets. Vendors were everywhere, selling buttons, hand-warmers, hats, and posters. As we passed the State Department and neared Lincoln Memorial, I braced for a long wait to enter the Mall. Unlike the concert, there was no security tent to pass through, so we walked right onto the Mall. But what was truly memorable for both of us, was the friendly nature of the security and crowd control people, who smiled broadly, warmly greeted many hellos and directed the flow of people. From my previous experience with security and crowd control, the situation was almost surreal!

We jockeyed our way to a good view of a jumbotron near the Washington Monument. There was no way we were going to try anything closer. If you wonder how far back we were, just watch Forrest Gump. Again it was cold, but the sun was out and again, the crowd was diverse. Many people were finding a spot where their young children or their elderly parents could see the screen and others accommodated their needs, for the most part. The excitement escalated when the former presidents arrived.

Not surprisingly, Bill and Hillary Clinton were on the late side. When he first walked into the Capitol, Bill did not look too joyful, but his demeanor changed when he walked out onto the seats. The crowd cheered loudly when the Obamas were announced and many cried.

When Aretha Franklin sang, wearing that exuberant hat, several women around us raised their hands up in the air and closed their eyes closed, as if they were in prayer. Many held cell phones high above our heads, pointing hopefully toward the far-distant stage at the Capitol. As Obama took the oath and gave his address, the crowd was fairly quiet and many were tearful, intently nodding their heads as he spoke.

Although I tend to be a bit "crowd-phobic" I am thrilled that I was part of that historic experience. If the crowd was euphoric, it was quietly so, at least where I was. Joyous but dignified, the sort of quiet joy we feel when something significant has happened and it does not seem right to make a noisy fuss.

## **COFFEE HOUR WITH SENATOR SUSAN FARGO AND REPRESENTATIVE ALICE PEISCH**

Katty Chace

**A**t our annual coffee hour with our legislators, it was pointed out that, because there is a new Speaker of the House, business has not really gotten started yet there, since the various committees chairmanships have not yet been assigned. That being said, much of the conversation focused on the question of the state budget and where shortfalls might be made up. Alice Peisch made the point that her towns of Weston and Wellesley, because they get so little money from state aid, will be less badly hurt when state aid is reduced. Poorer towns and cities will feel a much bigger blow.

One place to make up for some of the reduced income to the state is from increasing road tolls (as the governor has suggested) or by raising the gas tax, which has remained at the same rate since the early 1990's. This latter approach seems much fairer, especially to those of us living in the MetroWest region, who use the Turnpike regularly, and are subsidizing those who use Route 93 and benefit at least equally from the Big Dig. Alice Peisch said she expects a combination of these two approaches will be employed in the end. Other topics discussed were fathers' rights and casino gambling.

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## ...People of Wayland, Sudbury and Weston, of all ages



You can become a better citizen, make your town proud and make our democracy stronger – all in one exciting new event. Students, teachers and other adults are invited to participate in the

## Inter-town Civics Bee



Sponsored by the League of Women Voters  
**Sunday, March 1, 2009 • 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Wayland Town Building, Hearing Room**

**The Event:** Town teams will compete to answer fundamental questions on civics, including the U.S. Constitution, the federal government, and American history. The team with the most correct answers will bring home the **League of Women Voters' Civics Trophy** for their town to hold during this year.

**The Teams:** Each town team will consist of 9 people: 3 middle school students, 3 high school students, and 3 adults who will compete against the other towns, one age group at a time. The players may reach out to other age groups on their team using a limited number of "lifelines." Group coaching sessions and other ways to prepare for the event will be provided by the Leagues.

**The Audience:** The public is invited to be present – family, friends, legislators, everyone! We also anticipate that the event will be broadcast live on WayCAM with later re-broadcasts.

### How might you participate?

You could be a player on a team.

You could help create questions or be one of the coaches for your town's team.

You could help with publicity or with hospitality.

You could contribute refreshments or serve them.

You could donate gifts for contestants.

You could donate the trophy or its engraving, or flowers or name cards for the event.

**Interested?** Contact one of the people listed below for more information or to offer to get involved.

<b>Sudbury Contact:</b> Bonnie Glass 978-460-1458 <a href="mailto:robertaglass@comcast.net">robertaglass@comcast.net</a>	<b>Wayland Contact</b> Sandy Coy 508-653-6014 14 Hawthorne Rd., Wayland <a href="mailto:sandycoy@verizon.net">sandycoy@verizon.net</a>	<b>Weston Contact:</b> Diana Chaplin 781-893-6288 <a href="mailto:Diana@greatestate.com">Diana@greatestate.com</a>
--	---	--

## OBSERVER CORPS

Jean Thurston



### WESTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN - MEETING JANUARY 28, 2009

- 1. Dog Committee** – Jeri Cooper, Chair of the committee, presented their report and recommendations. The recommendations included:

Dog owners would be required to license their dogs as of April 30.

There would be a community education program with a dog etiquette flyer and information on the town website.

Dogs must not endanger the public or other dogs or disturb the peace and walkers must clean up waste.

Specific areas would require that dogs be leashed. More mutt-mitts should be available. No dogs would be allowed on playgrounds, cemeteries and public gathering areas.

Commercial dog walkers, of which there are about ten, would need an annual permit – recommended cost \$1,000 and could walk up to five dogs between 3 and 10 o'clock Monday through Friday. They would need photo I.D.

There would be no regulations on individual owners on public land.

Adoption of these regulations would require a Town Meeting Vote.

The possibility of designating a dog park was considered but no recommendation was made.

Discussion: The report represented a consensus, but not unanimous, of the members.

Susan Crum, a resident and professional dog walker, thinks there should be only 3 rules: walk a maximum of 5 dogs, pick up after them and control the dogs.

Brian Donahue, Chair of the Conservation Commission, thought only 3 dogs should be allowed off leash on Conservation land.

Tom Selldorff, of the Forest and Trail Association, recommended 3 dogs off leash or 5 on leash, but penalties for non-compliance should be enforced. This would require a by-law change.

Buzzy Price felt that more than 3 dogs should be allowed.

Others felt the fee for the permit was too high. Perhaps it should be geared more closely to the cost to the town.

The Selectmen thanked the committee for their work and did not make any decisions at that time.

- 2. Retained Earnings Policy – Water Enterprise Fund** – Harvey Boshart of the Finance Committee recommended that 12 ½% of water revenues be retained within the Water Enterprise Fund as funds to be used when needed.

- 3. Establish Water Rates for 2009** – Three options were considered and it was decided that 1-50 hundred cubic feet (hcf) would be at a rate of \$1.23, 50 hcf = \$61.50 and 51-120 hcf would be at a rate of \$3.96. 70 hcf = \$276.97. The meter charge is \$27. This is a 2.5% increase in the first block and a 9% increase in the second block.

**4. Street Lighting Proposal** – George Woodbury, a consultant presented a plan to replace the 793 existing streetlights and lights for schools and fields for a total of 862 with sodium vapor lamps for significant savings. These lamps would eventually be replaced with LED lamps when their price comes down – perhaps in 3 years.

**5. Open Warrant for Submission of Citizens' petitions**

**6. NStar – “Town Green Pilot Program for Energy Conservation** – David Williams, Asst. Town Manager, spoke briefly about plans to take part in this program.

**Correction:** In an earlier report I spoke about the cost of the DPW building. The DPW will be allocated \$12 million of the cost, and the Water Department \$3 million.



*The Weston League of Women Voters would like to extend our warm congratulations to Cat Laine and Peter Kaas on their recent marriage. We wish you many years of happiness, and success in all your endeavors.*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE COMMITTEE**

**T**he next meeting of the Environmental Baseline Committee will be held on Tuesday, Feb 17, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

The EBC is actively seeking new members as we reach out to community organizations and firms to share info on their environmental footprint. All those interested are encouraged to attend on February 17.

#### **Agenda for February 17:**

- Presentation by NStar on their Town Green program for establishing a carbon footprint for community electricity usage, with follow-on educational materials, analysis for cost savings, and green renewable energy.
- Update on EBC Baseline data collection
- Recruiting members for the EBC
- Next steps for data collection

Note that on January 28, the Board of Selectmen formally authorized the Town of Weston, represented by its Environmental Baseline Committee, to participate with NStar in their pilot program of investigating ways in which a town can become more green. This authorization does not commit any funds to the EBC or to the program or for the implementation of any specific measures. It does authorize the EBC to represent the Town's interest in the study, and it anticipates that the EBC will report back to the Board of Selectmen its findings and recommendations from the NStar program.