



The League of Women Voters Of Weston

January, 2012

No. 142

OPENING MESSAGE

Barbara Hill

League of Women Voters of Weston

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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.

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Submit articles to Katherine Wolfthal in
typewritten hard copy or by e-mail to
kate@weichi.com

I have been offered the opportunity to welcome you to the first bulletin of the New Year ---- and what a year it will be.

The League has a number of exciting programs on the horizon, and there are exciting political races underway. I am reminded that the League of Women Voter's mission is to encourage informed participation in our democracy, and this is one of my passions --- if you don't participate, don't complain.

Of course, you might be forgiven if you were already tired of the election year coverage --- which has barely started, if at all, in Massachusetts. Look in the Crier for a Letter to the Editor in the next week or two --- with some spectacular points on how to be an educated consumer of political advertising. One of the national League's main objectives is to advocate for election finance reform, so that the voters can perhaps have a better chance of getting enough clear information so voters are able to make good decisions. There's a Republican primary in March, Town Elections and Town Meeting in May, and the Democratic primary in September. And that's before the 2012 election in November. Wow. Exhausting to even think about.....

In February, the League is holding a voter registration at Weston High School. Voters are eligible to register if they will be 18 by the date of the election -- so we are hoping to encourage a number of High School upperclassmen to register and vote. Also, the League will be offering rides to the polls for those unable to get there, and any League member willing to help with this effort, please call Katty Chace to volunteer.

The Fourth Annual Civics Bee is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 25th, from 2 – 4 pm, and we encourage you to volunteer to be on our team, or simply to come cheer on our team. The Civics Bee will be held in Wayland this year, as it was in its inaugural year. The location rotates among Wayland, Weston and Sudbury --- and it is our turn to win this year, so come support our team. Each team is comprised of 3 middle school

students, three high school students and three adults (out of school). The Weston Schools have done a great job of getting the students on the team, and we have so far fielded three great teams, and this year should be no exception.

The League is considering a couple of interesting “book club” ideas: The Odd Clauses is on tap for a book club reading either in the Spring or early Fall. This is a consideration of ten of the oddest clauses in the Constitution and was reviewed a while back on NPR radio. In addition, we are looking for a good “Weston Reads” book to propose --- preferably something with a connection to government, democracy, or another League mission. Essentially, a book that will appeal to a wide range of ages and interests. Forward any suggestions!

And, finally, we continue to work on the LWV Quiz/Scavenger/Treasure Map event that will be part of the Weston 300 celebration.

On another note – I am pleased to see the debate on the Town Meeting process, but even more, to see a number of vocal supporters of sustained, civil (I repeat, civil) discussion, whatever the issue. I encourage all of you to participate, civilly, in discussions of the issues facing Weston, and in the debates on the national elections as well.

CALENDAR JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012

January 21, Saturday..... 11:00a.m., Weston Public Library Community Room	LWVW Coffee Hour with Alice Peisch and Susan Fargo
February 6, Monday..... 10:00 a.m., 155 Conant Rd. Katherine Wolfthal (781-891-9549)	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome!
February 7, Tuesday..... 10:15a.m. – 12:15p.m., Weston High School	Voter Registration Drive
March 6, Tuesday.....	MA Presidential Primary
March 12, Monday..... 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium	Town Caucus
March 13, Tuesday..... 9:15 a.m. , Location TBA	LWVW Board Meeting All members welcome!
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
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The Honorable Edward J. Markey
(781)396-2900
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Governor

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State House, Room 360
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(617)722-2070
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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 at the home of Barbara Hill on January 10, 2012.

The next Coffee Hour will be on January 21 at the Weston Library, with both Alice Peisch and Susan Fargo. They will be presenting the most pressing state issues for this year.

WESTON 300 – We are continuing to think about our “Weston Quest” activity for the celebration of Weston’s 300th birthday. We hope to have a family-friendly, active event with some element of government information in it.

We will be co-sponsoring, with Wayland and Sudbury, and talk by Gordon Martin who has written about the voting rights in the early days of the civil rights movement.

There next town Caucus will be on Monday, March 12. There was some discussion about whether we expected any contested races. few are expected.

Mary Antes of Wayland has written a letter to the Town Crier about the "Citizens United" Supreme Court decision. We will support her letter asking people to question the sources of money supporting campaign advertising.

Dave Hutcheson up-dated us on plans for rail-trail development (see article). The state hopes to encourage local groups to help with improving the trails.

Civics Bee - Sunday, March 25. We are still looking for members for our adult team. The focus of the questions this year will be the Constitution the Bill of Rights, and voting laws.

One suggestion for a League Book Group was “Odd Clauses” by Jay Wexler, about the unusual clauses in the Constitution. It was suggested that we should suggest a book for the town to read for the Tricentennial.

There will be an Request For Proposals for the Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library due at the end of February. There have so far been seven expressions of interest.

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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39 Warren Avenue, Weston, MA

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781 894 0675
21 Center Street, Weston, MA

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781 891 9110
483 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA

Voter Registration Drive at High School on Tuesday, February 7

We will be conducting a voter registration drive at the High School during lunch-time. Any student who will be 18 by the March 6 Massachusetts Presidential Primary may register to vote. This should include about half of the senior class. Board members Barbara Hill and Beth Keane, each of whom has children at the High School, will be there with a staff person from the Town Clerk's office, to help register eligible students.

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