





# The League of Women Voters Of Weston

May, 2011

No. 137

## 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)

This year has been a productive one for the Weston League. Included in the high points are our Third Annual Civics Bee in Sudbury, a Candidates' Night with Representative Alice Peisch and her Republican challenger Roy Switzler, and Coffee Hours on topics of The High School Science Laboratory renovations, the adoption of an Affordable Housing Trust, the Stretch Energy Code, the expenditure of \$850,000 of Community Preservation funds on the restoration of the Old Library, and a visit from Representative Peisch to discuss her legislative priorities for the year.

Right now the League at all levels is engaged in a debate concerning the appropriateness of the current television advertisements which take Senator Scott Brown to task for having voted against an appropriation for money to increase the power of the Environmental Protection Agency's to increase efforts towards clean air. (See page 6 of this Bulletin). These ads were produced by the national League and are being run in Missouri against Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill of that state. Some are criticizing the League for taking what they see as a partisan stand, while the national League maintains it is not criticizing the Senator, but only a particular position he took. Said Elizabeth MacNamara, President of the LWVUS, "The League is political, but non-partisan". There has also been criticism that the League has not been forthcoming in revealing the source of the funding for these ads, which the League has said it will do in its next reporting cycle.

I would like to end this message by thanking my wonderful board, which continues to support me in every way. I find our board meetings to be stimulating and interesting. I look forward to them, and encourage other members to join us from time to time, when your schedules permit and you're looking for a little intellectual stimulation. I especially would like to thank Sally Currier, who has been a terrific Voter Service Chair, and whom we will dearly miss.

**CALENDAR  
MAY-JUNE 2011**

**May 20-21, Friday and Saturday.....LWVMA Convention**  
**The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA**

**May 30, Monday.....Memorial Day**

**June 3, Friday..... Weston High School**  
**5:15 P.M. Graduation**  
**Weston Town Green (weather permitting)**

**June 6, Monday..... LWVW Annual Meeting**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**Weston Public Library Community Room**

**The Weston Media Center celebrates Flag Day,  
and requests your participation.**

The WMC is planning a "Flag Day" project. We are filming American Flags flying in Weston, for example at the Town Hall, the Scout House, schools, etc. And we would like to have people saying "The Pledge of Allegiance" on film (or at least on audio). So we are hoping some members of the LWV would be willing to recite *The Pledge* on camera. The more the merrier!

We will go wherever and whenever. Our goal is to get this produced by June 1.

Contact Alanna Muldoon (eamuldoon@gmail.com)

## 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: [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)722-2320  
(781)237-4719  
State House, Room 26  
Boston MA 02133-1054  
E-mail: [alice.peisch@mahouse.gov](mailto:alice.peisch@mahouse.gov)

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

Our treasury is holding steady with about \$2000 in the bank.

The Coffee Hour on town issues was very informative. Covering many issues meant that presenters for one issue were there as an audience for the others. The Town Crier gave it great coverage.

There was a discussion of the Town Meeting, and the way the new rules may have changed the atmosphere. It will take people a while to get used to the new procedures.

The turnout for the election was very small, although somewhat understandable since there were no contested offices. Could we do something to encourage voting? Our banner could always be hung in the center. Perhaps the town could put up its lighted sign to remind people of the election. People should know that you can vote at the Town Hall before noon on Friday of the week before the election.

Barbara Hill described the Community Preservation Act issues that are to be voted on at Town Meeting.

LWV Weston Annual Meeting will be held at the library at 6:30 on Monday, June 6. Judith Cowin, a retired judge will speak on "Opening the Curtain", a description of the judicial process.

There was some discussion of having a program dealing with women's health issues. The Massachusetts League did this earlier this year. We could put together a panel to address this issue.

The LWV is running ads against Scott Brown's vote against the EPA. It is now being sued for this. There

was a discussion about whether this is an appropriate action for the League. It is non-partisan in the sense that it attacks a vote, but it does mention a specific legislator. Some thought that it would be more

appropriate to run an ad asking for Scott Brown's vote before the vote was taken.

The State League Convention is on May 21 and 22 in Sturbridge.



**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  
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840 Winter Street, Waltham, MA

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**The Gift Gallery**  
781 894 1633  
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**Ogilvie's**  
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**Omni Foods Supermarkets**  
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**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
AND THE CLEAN-AIR ADS**

There has been considerable discussion among League members and Weston residents in general, concerning the ads placed by the League of Women Voters to protest the vote of senators Scott Brown (R-MA) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) on the McConnell amendment to the small business bill, which was the topic of those ads.

To further our understanding of the national League's position on the matter, we are publishing the following statement issued by the national League of Women Voters. Since this statement was intended as a template to be used by many individual communities, we have personalized it for Weston with some minor editorial adjustments.

.....

We appreciate the concerns voiced by members of our community about the League's recent advertising on clean air. Here in Weston, the League has focused primarily on voter guides and candidate forums as well as providing voter services such as helping to register voters. We have always performed these functions in a nonpartisan manner.

The League of Women Voters is a nationwide, nonpartisan membership organization with chapters in communities all over the country. While we are best known for our voter service work, the League was born in nonpartisan advocacy, agitating for women's suffrage. In many communities, and at the national level, advocacy in the public interest on such issues as clean air and water or voting reform is an important part of the League's work. Individual Leagues determine where their volunteers put their energies.

The League strictly separates its advocacy on issues from our voter service and other educational work. A look at our recent voter guides and candidate forums illustrates that. The League's dual mission is not unlike that of a newspaper, which has an editorial page in addition to news coverage. We recognize that in the highly partisan climate that has developed in recent years, it is difficult for many to understand that we are political but nonpartisan – that the League advocates on issues but also brings factual information to the public in a fair and nonpartisan way. But that is who we are. And that is who we have been for 91 years. The League of Women Voters of Weston looks forward to continuing our service to our community.

.....

Several groups in the environmental community have sent a letter to Senator Brown regarding his vote on the McConnell Amendment.

[Click here to read that letter, which will open as a PDF document.](#)

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at Daryl Christopher

## **ALL YEAR!**

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Daryl Christopher  
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**This Gift of Health is Priceless.**



Daryl Christopher  
840 Winter Street @ Healthpoint  
Waltham, MA 02451  
781.890.9211

[www.dchristopher.com](http://www.dchristopher.com)

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## TOWN MEETING Katty Chace

**T**own Meeting was held on Monday, May 9 and Wednesday, May 11. All the articles on the warrant passed easily (except article 33 - Recreation Designer Fees, which was passed over), including several that might have been expected to provoke some opposition and spirited discussion: storm-water management, an affordable housing trust, the stretch energy code, and \$850,000 in Community Preservation funds for the restoration and repair of the exterior of the Old Library.

In the end, only one issue necessitated a standing count, and that was the acceptance of

new town Meeting procedures proposed by new Moderator Wendy Spector: a 3-minute limit on speeches by speakers, and separate “pro” and “con” microphones. After a voice vote that appeared to garner the needed majority for these changes, Isabella Jancourtz, who had run a write-in campaign for Moderator against Spector, requested a standing count. That count resulted in a 153 to 23 approval of the new rules. Jancourtz had maintained that Robert's Rules of Order requires advance notice to voters of changes in procedure.



## WILL ANTIBIOTICS WORK FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEED THEM? Barbara Fullerton

**I**n the modern age of medicine, we have taken for granted our ability to use antibiotics to cure infectious diseases. However, disease-causing organisms, called pathogens, are continually evolving to become resistant to the latest medications. Many types of pathogens, including various bacteria and parasites, have become less responsive to antibiotic treatments that are needed. This can be a problem for people with common infections that are now more difficult to treat, allowing the infections to more easily spread to others. Some examples of infections that are now resistant to the original antibiotics are tuberculosis, anthrax, meningitis, pneumonia, MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*), gonorrhea,

streptococcus (as in “strep throat”), and malaria. The medical community is working to find replacement antibiotics, but it is becoming more difficult (and expensive) to find ones that are effective.

### How does resistance develop?

Antibiotic use kills the more sensitive bacteria, leaving the resistant bacteria, or organisms, to continue reproducing and spreading. Frequent exposure of bacteria and/or other pathogens to antibiotics is the main cause of the increase in drug resistant pathogens. When prescribed antibiotics are not taken in large enough

quantity to kill all the organisms, the stronger ones remaining will be the “resistant” variety. When individuals stop taking their antibiotics as soon as they feel better, but before the full time course, that also allows the stronger organisms to survive. Following all of the prescription instructions is an important step that individuals can take to eradicate all of the targeted pathogens.

#### **Antibiotic use in our food increases resistance.**

Unfortunately, even if we are not exposed to antibiotics through prescription medicines, many of us eat meat from animals that were fed a diet containing antibiotics. This has been the case with the increase in large industrial-scale meat production of beef, chicken, and pork, and now also in some farmed fish. Because of the unhealthy, dirty conditions in which the animals exist, companies regularly give them antibiotics to prevent large numbers from becoming ill. This means that the cycle of antibiotic resistance develops in the animals.

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) reported in early May that three-quarters of the antibiotics given to livestock is delivered in the food, with a smaller amount added to the water, and less injected directly. FDA scientists are concerned that the use of antibiotics in animals is increasing the rate at which organisms become resistant to antibiotics. When the sanitary conditions at the meat processing facilities are not monitored carefully, there are more chances for bacteria to infect the meat that consumers purchase at grocery stores. Staphylococcus bacteria was found recently by Wayne State University scientists in 22.5 percent of 289 grocery meat samples, which included chicken, beef and turkey. These “staph” bacteria resistant forms (MRSA) were found in 1.3 percent of the beef, 3.9 percent of the chicken, and 1.7 percent of the turkey samples. There could also be a high percentage of other bacteria not tested for, such as

salmonella, on the meat. One could get infected by handling the raw meat with a cut or wound on the skin, if not wearing protective gloves. All meat should be well cooked in order to kill any possible bacteria.

#### **How should one kill surface bacteria?**

In the attempt to protect themselves from seemingly ubiquitous dangerous bacteria, many people use antibacterial products now available in many forms, such as antibacterial soaps, toothpaste, undergarments, children’s toys, and coatings for many other products. Retail companies have found numerous items that can be made “safe” from bacteria, using the antibacterial material triclosan. The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has found that although there has been no evaluation of health risks to children or infants, triclosan has been approved for use in 140 different types of consumer products.

The American Medical Association has recommended against the use of antimicrobial products in the home; plain soap and water are just as effective at preventing the spread of infection or reducing bacteria on the skin as is triclosan, without the added potential for increasing antibiotic resistance.

Triclosan has been found in nearly all groups of Americans and its levels increased by 40 to 50 percent between 2003-2004 and 2005-2006. 100 percent of teenage girls tested in 2008 had detectable levels of triclosan, as did 87 percent of pregnant women in a National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey. Triclosan was found in breast milk of all 36 Swedish mothers tested and 20 percent of infants in neonatal intensive care units.

Research has shown that allergies and hay fever were positively correlated with exposure to triclosan in 678 children aged 6 to 18 years of age.

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag, with a dark blue field of white stars at the top and a white field with stars below. The stars are arranged in a pattern that follows the curve of the flag's canton.

***Omni Foods  
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the fine work  
of the  
League of  
Women Voters.***

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**SUPERMARKETS**

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

With increased prevalence of triclosan in the population, there has also been an increase of antibiotic resistance to Salmonella in human and animal isolates, with half of those also being resistant to multiple antibiotics.

Triclosan is spreading in the environment, and is now present in aquatic ecosystems. It can enter rivers and streams through the release of treated wastewater. Because it is toxic to a wide variety of algae and microorganisms, triclosan may change important ecological aquatic processes. Triclosan can also get into agricultural land when sewage sludge from the treatment plants is applied to fields. It is known to interfere with nitrogen-fixing bacteria around the roots of many legumes, and may therefore reduce fertility of crops.

*The bottom line: use plain soap and water whenever practical.*

#### **What does all of this mean for public health?**

There are several mechanisms by which antibiotic resistance has increased in modern life, and along with it the risk that serious infections or diseases may not be able to be controlled by the available antibiotics. The mechanisms are either direct, through the antibiotics that we ingest, or indirect, through the antibiotics given to feed animals or otherwise spread in the environment, such as by triclosan-treated objects. Individuals should be aware of the issues in order to make personal choices that will reduce where possible their personal exposure to unnecessary non-medical antibiotics and antimicrobials. Notifying the EPA and the FDA that they should do more to protect the public from this threat to our common health is an important step in making the public agencies more responsive to

these health issues. We should also support independent organizations, such as the Environmental Working Group, that investigates the science behind the issues and advocates on behalf of the public interest.

#### **More information can be found at:**

[http://www.CDC.gov/drugresistance/DiseasesC  
onectedAR.html](http://www.CDC.gov/drugresistance/DiseasesC<br/>onectedAR.html)

EWG (Environmental Working Group) Comments to EPA on draft antimicrobial rule. 2009.

[http://www.ewg.org/EWG-comments-to-EPA-  
on-draft-antimicrobial-rule](http://www.ewg.org/EWG-comments-to-EPA-<br/>on-draft-antimicrobial-rule)

EWG (Environmental Working Group). Water pollution caused by cosmetic chemicals, cleaning supplies and plastics:>Triclosan.

<http://www.ewg.org/node/21840>

[http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/05/detr  
oit-study-finds-human-mrsa-in-meat-products/](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/05/detr<br/>oit-study-finds-human-mrsa-in-meat-products/)

Tan L, Nielsen NH, Young DC, Trizna Z. 2002. Council on Scientific Affairs, American Medical Association. Use of antimicrobial agents in consumer products. Arch Dermatol. 138(8):1082-6.



### **ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER**

## **THE HONORABLE JUDITH COWIN RETIRING JUSTICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

The Honorable Judith A. Cowin will be the speaker at our Annual Meeting on June 6. She was appointed as an associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts by Governor Cellucci in November 1999, the third woman to serve on this court in its more than 300-year history.

Prior to November 1999, Justice Cowin was a judge on the Superior Court for eight years. She presided over civil and criminal trials, and for two years was also the Regional Administrative Justice for Middlesex County. From 1979 to 1991, Justice Cowin was an assistant district attorney in Norfolk County. In that capacity she tried felony trials in the Superior Court. She prosecuted numerous murder cases, rapes, and armed robberies as well as violations of the narcotic laws.

A graduate of Harvard Law School and Wellesley College, Justice Cowin has authored numerous articles for legal publications, and been a guest lecturer at both Harvard and Boston Colleges. She has also been a panel member of the Flaschner Judicial Institute. A Newton resident, Justice Cowin is married and the mother of three grown children, with six grandchildren.



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTON 2011 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

6:30	Refreshments, socializing	
7:00	Guest Speaker	Judith Cowin, Retiring Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
<b>8:15</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>	
	Call to order	Katty Chace
	Re-adoption of Local Positions	Katty Chace
	Budget Presentation	Kathie Strehle
	Election of 2009-2009 Officers and Directors	Katherine Wolfthal
	Presentation of New Study on Town Government Discussion of Local Program	Barbara Hill
	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				(Most bulletins online but a small number are mailed)
1. Postage		\$20.00	\$60.00	
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 including 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>	



## SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2011-2012

### Officers:

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

### Directors:

Voter Service	
Membership	
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
Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Committee	Barbara Hill

### At Large

Diana Chaplin  
Barbara Flannery  
David Hutcheson  
Lenore Lobel  
Rochelle Nemrow  
Robin Reisman

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

## PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAMS 2011-2012

**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 Weston League, together with the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues, will continue to sponsor the Civics Bee, in a spirit of friendly competition.