

The Bulletin

Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



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December 2008

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Calendar of Events



December—2008

- ⇒ **No SC meeting**
- ⇒ **7th Holiday Party see page 2 and 3 of this Bulletin for more**

January—2009

- ⇒ **TBD State Program Planning at Karen Zingg's Watch your emails, Bulletin, and Website for date and time.**
- ⇒ **Fund Drive begins**

February

- ⇒ **29th Fund Drive ends**
- ⇒ **Program meeting date, time, place to be decided. Watch Bulletin for more.**

March

- ⇒ **4th—Day on the Hill, MA State House 10a.m. Meet with Legislators.**
- ⇒ **6th—Online Student Essay Submission Deadline**
More see www.lwvma.org
- ⇒ **12th—Guardian of Democracy Award. Honoring Paul Guzzi**
Marriot Copley Place; 6:30p.m., Reception 7:30p.m.
More see www.lwvma.org

April

- ⇒ **6th— Day on the Hill; MA State House; 10am. Meet with Legislators and express your concerns.**

May

- ⇒ **29th—LWVM Convention, Newton Marriot. Check www.lwvma.org for more.**



June—Westwood-Walpole Annual Meeting date, place, time TBA

The **Bulletin** is published ten times a year, September-June, by the League of Women Voters of Westwood/Walpole MA. Visit the **LWVM** home page at www.lwvma.org and the **LWVUS** home page at www.lwv.org

Domestic Violence Action

THE DIANNE DEVANNA CENTER

The Dianne DeVanna Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and strengthen both individual family members and the family as a whole in order to significantly contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Center has established a lasting memorial to Dianne DeVanna through the development and implementation of programs in the area of public education, child and family support, and crisis intervention. The Center provides services to families who are currently receiving assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Social Services..



Dianne DeVanna

This is the child whose death at the hands of her parents caused the Dianne DeVanna Center to be established.

Each year the Westwood-Walpole League supports the Center with a contribution in memory of Joanne Carey

This year we are asking for a contribution of \$25 a person. But all contributions no matter how small are most welcome.

Make checks to DeVanna Center and send it to: LWV, Box 294, Westwood, MA 02090 or bring it to holiday party on the 7th of December.

What Do We Do?

The DeVanna Center provides home-based support services to families whose children are at risk of abuse and neglect through the following programs:

Parent Aide Program- Our Parent Aides are trained, professionally supervised individuals who assist parents under stress. By establishing a long-term, supportive relationship, our Parent Aides can help the parent to improve parenting skills, reduce stress and isolation, access community resources, and discover his/her own strengths.

Transportation Program- Our Transportation Program transports children, usually in foster care, to supervised visits with their parents, therapy, daycare, school, and other necessary appointments

Parent Education Program-The Parent Education Program is designed to help parents develop practical and personal coping skills. The demands of raising children can sometimes be overwhelming and parents may struggle with issues of discipline, communication, and encouragement. These classes help parents learn how to build a strong parent-child relationship as they develop their parenting skills.

Annual Holiday Party Sunday, Dec 7th

AN INVITATION



You are invited to the League's Annual Holiday Party

**Come! Bring a friend
& your favorite appetizer**

*Sunday, December 7th, 2008
5pm*

*Your hostess and host are Denise Murphy and David White
870 Gay Street, Westwood*

Enjoy good food—Bring your favorite appetizer

*Socialize with friends
Your senators and representatives are invited.*

Please RSVP Jane Nash by November 28th at 781-769-1185 .

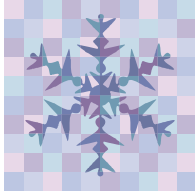
As usual, donations to the Diane DeVanna Center will be gratefully accepted.

Reports: Treasurer's



Membership Report—New Members

Give a League of Women Membership



As the holiday season draws near, we are mindful that our democracy is one of our most precious gifts and that the League of Women Voters stands as an ever vigilant and active advocate for Making Democracy Work.

Gift Certificate

To: _____

From: _____

Date: _____



**Please make checks of \$25.00 payable to:
Westwood-Walpole League of Women Voters
and send with a note naming gift recipient to:**

*Westwood-Walpole League of Women Voters
PO Box 294, Westwood MA 02090*

Please give a League membership today

Recap—Meeting with LWVM President Diane Jeffery

Members and friends of the Westwood-Walpole League of Women Voters recently met with Massachusetts League President, Diane Jeffery, at John and Marianne Cummings-Leblanc’s home in Westwood.

While guests ate delicious home made pies, Diane spoke about the history of the League, its mission, her experiences, and the advantages of being a member. She described how the Mass League was in the forefront of the successful campaigns to defeat casino gambling and Question 1 on the ballot which would have phased out the state income tax. Both had “positions” under which the League could take a stand. She talked about her state-wide visits to colleges all over Massachusetts in an effort to see that students were both registered to vote and informed on the issues.

Ms. Jeffery reminded us that suffragist Carrie Catt started the League to keep newly franchised women informed on the issues. Even today voter service and voter education are the key stones of the League at all levels. The League is a multi-level non-partisan organization that functions at the local, state, and national levels. It is non-partisan about political candidates; but lobbies on issues it has studied, come to agreement, and formed a “position.” Ms. Jeffery said “What other group studies both side of an issue before taking a stand.” Truly the League is unique.

Ms. Jeffery described her experiences with league studies and encouraged members to get involved. Being a member of a study is not only a valuable learning experience; it can have practical results for participants. She told about a woman who got an excellent job because of the knowledge gained from her research as part of a league study. Many of the members present could relate to her reference to the League as an experience equal to a good college education.

When asked if she thought that Governor Patrick would bring back a bill supporting casino gambling in Massachusetts, Ms. Jeffery replied, “No.” She explained that it was very obvious that casino gambling had little support either in the legislature or with the general public.



Diane enjoys Marcia’s plug for new members



Gift to Prez is ww/wp’s own t-shirt. Marcia laughs because Diane expected a mug.



Lisa & Chris & Glen listening to Marcia joking with Diane Jeffery , President LWVM



LWV not for women only



Marcia talks with perspective member



Member Chris welcomes new member Iona.



Chris, Glen, Susan, Patty, Michelle, and Phoebe enjoying pies





LWVMA Program Planning Guide 2009-2011

Westwood-Walpole State Program Meeting in January 2009 at Karen Zingg's

Watch emails, bulletin, web site for more information.

Download your 2009 - 2011 State Program Planning Guide [HERE](#) (hold down control key and click)

In preparation for Convention 2009, the State Program Planning Guide is now available to assist you with the LWVMA program planning process in your local League.

Program Planning is your chance to have your voice heard on what LWVMA should prioritize for the coming biennium in terms of both action and study. The Guide explains in greater detail why this is important, and also:

- Provides step-by-step directions for doing state program planning
- lists the resources needed (and where to find them) to do state program planning
- includes the Program Planning Recommendations Form

The deadline for submittal of your League's program planning recommendations is **February 13, 2008**. Please coordinate your local League program planning meeting(s) accordingly.

The Westwood-Walpole meeting will be at Karen Sinn's house. Watch your emails, the website, and your bulletin for more information including a date and time for the meeting.

Members of the Steering Committee will calling the membership for people to present current positions.

But if you are interested in a particular subject area, please call Marcia Hirshberg 791-326-8784.