

The Bulletin

Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



Volume 6 Issue 6

January 2009

Page 1



Calendar of Events

What's inside:

Recaps:

Holiday Party
DeVanna Collection

Reports

Treasurer
Membership

Studies

National Popular Vote
Climate Change

Mark Your Calendars

-Program Planning with
Bread and soup
-Local Program
-LWVUS Consensus mtg.
-Essay Contest
-Day on the Hill
-Guardian of Democracy
-LWVM Convention

Steering Committee

Chair:

Shared by all Members

Secretary:

Jane Nash

Treasurer:

Virginia Fettig

Bulletin Editor:

Jane Nash
781-769-1185

Jane.nash@comcast.net

Membership:

Marcia Hirshberg
781.326.8784

Hberg40@comcast.net

Web Master:

Kathy Zola

PROPOSED EVENTS JANUARY—JUNE 2009

Changes happen —keep checking

Interested in joining the League, a study committee, attending a Steering Committee meeting, or getting more information on WWVP League?

Please call Marcia Hirshberg 781-326-8784.

January

06—Steering Committee Meeting (all members are welcome)

06—Fund Drive begins. Want to help call Phoebe Joseph 508-668-7750

27—LWVM Program Planning with Bread and Soup—see pg 3

February

03—SC meeting (all are welcome)

10 —local program Westwood: “Don’t Just Sit There Run”

11—local program Walpole: “Don’t just Sit There Run”

29—Fund Drive ends

March

03—SC meeting (all are welcome)

04—Day on the Hill see www.lwvma.org

06—Deadline for Essay Contest see page 5

10—LWVUS Consensus Meeting National Popular Vote Compact

12—Guardian Of Democracy Award see www.lwvma.org

April

05—Essay Contest Awards

19—Westwood Candidate Forum

25—Walpole Hazardous Waste Day

May

16—Walpole Day our league will participate

29-30 —LWVM Convention, Newton Marriott. Watch bulletin and LWVMA, lwwestwoodwalpole websites for more information

June

07—Westwood Graduation & Lyman Scholarship Award

09—Westwood/Walpole LWV annual meeting

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

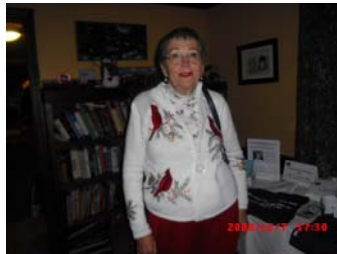
Holiday Party—Recap



Thank you, David and Denise for opening your home (again) for our annual holiday party. Without Leaguers like you this wonderful get-together would be impossible.

Thank you League members for all that wonderful food and as usual Pam Kane's punch was a hit.

See how many people you can identify



This year Our League contributed over \$100 to the Diane DeVanna Center

The Center used the money to provide the ingredients for a holiday dinner and presents for families suffering from domestic violence.

Thank you to all who contributed so some children might have a happier holiday.

Mark Your Calendars



What: State Program Planning led by Marcia Hirshberg

Where: Karen Zingg's 16 Oxford Terrace, Westwood

When: Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Time: 6:30 (note earlier time than usual)

Refreshments: Bread and Soup provided by members

This is one of our most popular programs.

Come and bring a friend.

We will be discussing LWVM positions.

**To download your 2009 - 2011 State Program Planning Guide
and to get more information---**

Go to— www.lwvma.org

In the program planning section on right side click on "More"

*for directions,
to volunteer,
to "read" positions,
to provide bread or soup,
or to get more information*

Call or email Marcia Hirshberg

Call—781-326-8784

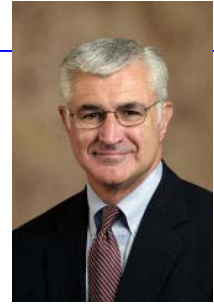
Email—Hberg40@comcast.net

Mark Your Calendar



Guardian of Democracy Award

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund



Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner March 12, 2009

Reception 6:30 p.m. | Dinner 7:30 p.m.

honoring

Paul Guzzi

**President & CEO Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Former Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Featured Speaker

Ralph C. Martin, II

Managing Partner Boston, Bingham McCutchen LLP

Former Suffolk County District Attorney

Marriott Copley Place, Boston

Driving Directions to Marriott Copley Place, Boston

go to lwvma.org click on "more" Guardian of Democracy Award

Onsite parking available for the evening - \$16.00 special event rate (with validated ticket)

Ticket price: \$150 (\$75 is tax-deductible)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

For more information contact Kim Jerdon at 617-523-2999 or kjerdon@lwvma.org



LWVUS COUNCIL AND CONVENTION—June 8th-11th, 2007

- Council 2007 will be June 8-11 at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, DC. “Strengthening our Leaders” will be the theme. State presidents and presidents of ILOs, capital and big city Leagues will be invited to attend. The registration fee of \$295 includes the banquet. Hotel rooms are \$165 per night. The goals are:
 - o 100% participation of State Leagues
 - o Networking opportunities
 - o Meaningful workshops and learning experiences
- Convention 2008 is in Portland, Oregon. The Board discussed possible locations for 2010 and 2012.

ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

LWV[®] League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Citizen Education Fund
10th Annual Online

Student Essay Contest

Democracy
and **CHANGE**
The Newly Elected President

For Massachusetts Students in grades 4-12
and Young Adults age 18-24
Contest Deadline is March 6, 2009

For contest details, essay questions and rules,
check the website

www.lwvma.org

- US Savings Bonds prizes for grades 4-12 winners
- \$1000 cash prize for 18-24 age winner
- Educational grants for winners' teacher or advisor
- Special Awards Event, Faneuil Hall, Boston, April 5, 2009

In Westwood Marcia Hirshberg and in Walpole Nancy Farris are making sure that the Westwood and Walpole schools have all the information they need to engage their students in the LWVM Essay Contest entitled Democracy and Change, the Newly Elected President. Material will be in Walpole and Westwood Libraries and Press announcements in the Westwood Press, Walpole Times, and in both towns Hometown Weekly newspapers.

If you have a student it is very worthwhile to encourage them to participate. Notice the prizes above. But writing the essay is a great learning experience.

Nancy reports from Walpole: *I sent an e-mail to the superintendent of schools in Walpole with the web site for the essay contest. It was then sent to all of the schools and appropriate teachers for their consideration. I know the principal at one school has asked his teachers specifically to have the kids write the essays.*

Marcia reports from Westwood: *When I first received bookmarks from the state office regarding the Essay Contest, I called my friend Mary O'Toole, a 4th grade teacher, and asked if she would like some for her class. When I dropped them off, she asked me to talk to her students and that's when the fun began. Although none of them knew about the League of Women Voters, they did know that women did not have the right to vote back in the day! We talked about why people don't vote, not knowing about the issues and how important forums and debates are. We talked about what they would write in the online essay: Imagine that you were to have a 15-minute conversation with the president. What would you talk about? What topics would you ask him about and how do you think that he would respond? Mary told me that 4th graders do a whole unit on government so our topic, fits right in. I had such a good time; I've volunteered to go into any classroom that wants me! I've distributed bookmarks to 2 schools for the 4th and 5th graders so far and plan to do more. I'm leaving notes with my LWV business card for the teachers. The information about the contest was included in the Superintendent's newsletter, but I hope the personal touch gets us a winner or at least, an honorable mention. If you happen to know a student or a young adult in any town in Massachusetts, please suggest they apply. Mary tells me it's not the winning that counts, it's the participating. If you don't know one of the participating students or young adults, you can be a judge. Even better you can do it all from the comfort of your home!*

Essay Contents Judges Needed



CALL FOR JUDGES FOR OUR 10th ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

***no meetings *no mailings *on your schedule**

***runs December 2008 thru March 2009**

***all judging and communications happen only via e-mail.**

**IF YOU WISH TO PARTICPATE,
EMAIL THE STATE LEAGUE AT:
judges@lwwma.org
or CALL (617) 523-2999**

**Westwood Walpole members please consider being a judge.
You will not regret the decision!!**

LWVUS STUDIES—Climate Change and Popular Vote

The League of Voters Of the United State is looking into two very timely and important topics climate change and how we elect the president focusing on the popular vote. Extensive information on both topics is available on www.lwv.org. Educate yourselves and be ready to discuss both issues some time during the spring months.

CLIMATE CHANGE. The Climate Change background papers examine various questions including: What can state and local Leagues do? What is Government doing? What is the science? What are the economics? State and local Leagues may use these papers as bases for their own discussion and as reprints in League newsletters. What could be a more timely subject? Some League like Needham (<http://www.lwv-needham.org/>) have set up their own committees to deal with the problem on the local as well as state and national levels.

More information on Climate Change is available at www.lwv.org on left hand column, choose “climate change.”

**Want to join a committee on Climate Change?
Send Michelle Perry an email at mmmperry@rcn.com**



**POPULAR VOTE: LWVUS Study on the National Popular Vote Compact Background Paper
Selection of the President**

**There will be a consensus meeting on this topic in Westwood on March 10th, 2009
A committee is being organized. Please email Marcia Hirshberg at hberg40@comcast.net and join!!
LWVUS has organized all the material and done most of the work. Think of that!!!**

The League’s History

A League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in its 1970 position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote as an essential element of representative government. The League also has supported national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections to ensure equity for voters from all states and to facilitate the electoral process.

At the 2002 Convention, the League voted to expand and update its position. The League came to concurrence on a new position in June 2004. The new position takes into account the entire presidential selection process and supports a process that produces the best possible candidates, informed voters and optimum voter participation.

At the 2008 Convention, the delegates voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President."

[See lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) in box located on upper right corner —search using term “Popular Vote.”