

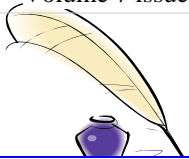
# The Bulletin

## Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



Volume 7 issue 4

November 2008



### SPECIAL DATES

**Changes happen; check emails and Website often.**

#### NOVEMBER EVENT

#### A CONVERSATION WITH MASSACHUSETTS LWV PRESIDENT DIANE JEFERY



DIANE JEFFERY INTRODUCING SPEAKER AT FALL CONFERENCE

**Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2008**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Place: 4 Chickadee Lane, Westwood**

**Hosts: Marianne and John Cummings**

*Your Steering Committee will bring the home-made pies  
You bring yourself, a friend, and enjoy*

This will be a wonderfully, informal meeting where current and potential Leaguers can have a conversation with Diane about our League. In this relaxed atmosphere come and learn more about the League in general and your state league in particular. Get answers to those questions you have always wondered about. Bring a friend or relative. This is a perfect meeting to introduce them to this great organization.

RSVP [Jane.nash@comcast.net](mailto:Jane.nash@comcast.net). Need a ride or have questions. Call Jane Nash at 781-769-1185

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



## Domestic Violence the Silent Family Tragedy That Affects Us ALL!!

In our continued effort to fight domestic violence the Westwood-Walpole Steering committee has voted to continue our association with two great organization totally involved in this battle.

*Jane Doe Inc. is part of a statewide coalition of over 60 community based rape crisis centers, sexual assault and domestic violence programs and organizations.*

*Their work is guided by the voices of survivors – and made possible by the generosity of friends. Financial support from individuals, corporation, and private foundations allow them to fulfill their mission and work diligently to end domestic violence and sexual assault. You can get more information on this organization through their web site at <http://www.janedoe.org/>*

The battle against domestic violence is not nearly over in fact here are some current facts: Domestic Violence Homicide in Massachusetts

***Between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008, 26 female victims of domestic violence along with 4 children and 4 men connected to victims of domestic violence have been killed. As of September 19, 2008, there have been 30 deaths as a result of domestic violence homicides in MA.***

The year 2007 marked the highest rate of domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts in the past fifteen years:

Massachusetts in the past fifteen years: 55 deaths occurred. As a result, 25 children were left without one or both parents.

Immigrants account for a disturbingly high share of domestic violence homicides in MA. While only an estimated 14% of the state's population, immigrants

accounted for 26 % of the 180 domestic violence deaths in Massachusetts from 1997 to 2006, according to the most recent figures from the state Department of Public Health. Nearly all of the 47 victims were women and children.

*You will getting “alerts” from Jane Doe Inc. from time to time. I hope you will respond*

*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.*

*You can read more about our involvement with the Diane DeVanna Center by going to next page in this bulletin or to their web site at <http://www.devannacenter.org/>*



## Contribute to Dianne DeVanna Ctr; Help Defeat Domestic Violence

### 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

#### THE DIANNE DEVANNA CENTER

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 given in League member of over 30 years Joanne Carey's name. Joanne started our association with this organization over 10 years ago. 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 the annual holiday party at David White's 870 Gay St. on December 7th.

#### 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.

1599 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184; Susan Nagle Executive Director 781-843-7010

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY— DECEMBER 7th



### COME JOIN WITH FELLOW LEAGUERS & LEGISLATORS FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY GREAT FOOD                      GREAT CONVERSATION

Date: Sunday, December 7, 2008

Time: 5:00pm

Place: 870 Gay Street, Westwood

Host & Hostess: Denise Murphy & David White

Bring your favorite appetizer

The Steering Committee will provide the wine!

Each year at this time our League fights domestic violence with a donation to the Diane DeVanna Center. We give this money in Joanne Carey's memory. Joanne, a loyal league member for over 30 years, started our association with this great organization over 10 years ago. This year we are suggesting donations of \$25 (but any amount is welcome) which will be used to give kids a wonderful holiday with a special dinner and gift— something they most likely would not get unless groups like ours supports groups like the Diane DeVanna Center.

This is one our most popular events. SO—

**Mark your Calendars**

Please RSVP by **November 30th** to Jane Nash (jane.nash@comcast.net) if you are planning to attend and bringing a guest so that your hostess and host will have an idea of the number of people to expect.

Questions? Need a ride? Call 781-769-1185

# REPORTS



## Remembering—MIKE ZINGG

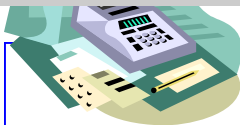
Michael Patrick Zingg of Westwood and Edgartown died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008, at his home in Westwood. He was 66.

Born in Boston, Mr. Zingg earned a master’s degree in business administration from Babson College. He retired in 2002, after 15 years as vice president of employee benefits for Fidelity of Boston. He leaves his wife, Karen E. (MacKinnon) Zingg a long-time League member; two sons, Michael D. Zingg and his wife, Kristina, of Roslindale, and Christian L. Zingg of North Attleborough; a brother, Robert Zingg of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; and three grandchildren Kirsten, Joseph and Kaley.

Everyone who knew Mike treasured his friendship. He is remembered for his giving ways, positive attitude, and as one always ready to help another. Mike will be sorely missed!

Donations in his memory may be made to the Jimmy Fund, c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place West, Brookline, MA 02445; or to Neighborhood Action Inc., 35 Bowdoin St., Boston, MA 02114.

## Treasurer’s Report



### Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters Reconciliation Statement

October 1- 31, 2008

	<b>Starting balance</b>	\$6,633.00
<b>Income/Deposits</b>		
Dues	977.00	
T shirts	7.00	
Member contribution	10.00	
Interest	1.00	
Total assets	\$7,628.00	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Voter Service pamphlets	7.93	
Printworks – Membership reply env.	93.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 100.93	
	<b>Current Balance</b>	\$7,527.07



## VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

### CONTESTED WALPOLE SENATE SEAT/BALLOT QUESTIONS



Candidates for Norfolk County Commissions —2 positions  
Incumbent Francis O'Brien, candidates Thomas Gorman and Michael Walsh  
absent: Incumbent John Gillis who was ill.

Following are some high-lights from the meeting.

**Question 1— eliminate our state income tax.** Mr. Richard Aucoin (Small Government Act) said eliminating the state's income tax would give each citizen \$3,700 each year every year and will take \$12.5 billion out of hands of MA big government forcing the legislature to streamline and cut waste. Kayla Calkin (Coalition for Our Communities) discounted Mr. Aucoin's statistics on legislative waste and stated eliminating the income tax would cut \$12 billion or 40 percent from our state budget causing immediate consequences including "sweeping education cuts, steep reductions in public safety personnel and further deteriorations of roads and bridges." She also pointed out that in every state without an income tax has other taxes and fees to take its place. When asked is the question binding on the legislatures, both said yes it would become effective January 1, 2009; but both agreed that the legislators could also pass legislation to bring back the income tax.

**The LWMA has taken a position against voting for this change!!**

**Question 2—decriminalization of Marijuana.** Whitney Taylor (Sensible Marijuana Policy) and John Towle (Suffolk County District Attorney's Office) totally disagreed on the effects of decriminalizing Marijuana. Ms. Taylor pointed out the only change would be making it a civil not a criminal offense. There would still be penalties. It is a public health not a criminal issue Ms Whitney said. John Towle disagreed saying the use of Marijuana no matter in what amount should remain a criminal offense to do otherwise would send a wrong message just a time when its use is declining. Ms. Taylor claimed that as it stands it ruins young people lives by giving them records. Mr. Towle said that is not true that the records are sealed and disagreed that there was evidence that people's lives are ruined.

**Question 3— prohibit dog raising in Massachusetts.** Paula Blanchard gave an impassioned talk on the cruelty of dog racing. She said although racing is a dying industry the laws must be passed now to save thousands of dogs lost through death by injury or euthasia because they can no longer race or are not winners. She described the small cages the dogs live in 20 out of 24 hours and the fact they have little human contact except when they are put into a race or taken to relieve themselves. No one came to speak for keeping dog racing but one person asked what would happen to employees. Ms. Blanchard said there were trust funds that could be used to support employees while they were retrained or looking for other jobs. Her group was more than willing to work with the Mass government to help employees find new employment. She ended by saying they have 14 months notice and that is much more than other people are getting.

About 35 people attended the October 29th meeting at the Old Post Road Elementary School in Walpole concerning the November 4th election. Those attending heard speakers give the pros and cons on four ballot questions, heard three of the four candidates give their reasons for running for 2 Norfolk County commissioners positions, and finally heard senate candidate Jon Rockwood give his reasons for running against incumbent James Timilty (who was unable to attend). It was a long meeting as each participant was given every chance to state their case and answer questions from the audience. We should all be very grateful to organizers Greg Agnew who did a great job of moderating and getting speakers for first three ballot questions, to Nancy Farris for her above and beyond efforts getting a meeting date, place, and the coffee, to Phoebe Joseph for getting the pro and con speakers for Walpole's question 4.

**Question 4 —should Walpole have an override to pay for a new library building.** Library Trustee Paul Cesary spoke for having the override without which the library could not be built while Al Cosby spoke against it. Mr. Cesary talked about the value of the Walpole Public Library to the community not only as a place to get books and use technology but as a community center. Mr. Cosby said the tax payers just could not afford to pay the increase in taxes at this time and that Walpole already had a community center. Mr. Cesary counted that the override will be for \$7,000,000. The remainder of project costs will be covered by the state grant (\$3,896,184.) and fundraising/trust funds (\$1,103,816.) that the override will only add 22 cents a week to a household's taxes for the first year and that this cost will diminish not increase. Mr. Cosby challenged the 22 cents figure, but Mr. Cesary noted that he got this figure from Town Hall. Mr. Cosby claimed that library use was declining. Mr. Cesary and a person from the audience stated statistics to prove library use was increasing not declining and that the claim technology was making libraries obsolete is without foundation.

**County Commissioners race.** There are two seats available for the Norfolk County Commissions. Incumbent John Gillis was ill. Thomas Gorman has an unusual approach as **he is running to eliminate Norfolk County system of commissioners** claiming all its service could be absorbed by the state and save tax payers lots of money. Incumbent Fran O'Brien and candidate Michael Walsh defended the system. Mr. O'Brien stated unequivocally that the system works well and he saw no necessary changes. Mr. Walsh while defending the system feels it needs better management and fairer distribution of services, and he is the man to make these and other changes.

**Walpole's contested State Senate seat.** Mr. Shield explained about Senator Timilty's absence. Candidate and Walpole Town Moderator, Jon Rockwood, promised to fight for more accountability, openness, and fiscal restraint in our state government. He would look for waste and eliminate it. When asked if he as a republican could be successful in a predominating democratic legislature, Rockwood did not hesitate to say yes. His work for the Town of Walpole has caused him to deal with many legislators with whom he has a good working relationship



## MEMBERSHIP — WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Great news!! We are at 91 members reaching for 100**

Please welcome these new or returning members who have joined us since Annual Meeting. When you see them at various League events, please introduce yourself and make them feel comfortable. Make a special effort to let them know how much we appreciate their membership in our organization.

Cynthia Atkins

David and Jennifer Atkins

Gail and Richard Bean

Priscilla Blue

Kent Hirshberg

Sara Onderdonk

Michelle Perry

Dottie and John Powers

Rose Powers

Laura Sanborn

Alisa Shapiro

Rosalie Suescun

Michael and Linda Walsh

Although I would like to say something about all our new members, I will try every month to give a little blurb about some. This month I am featuring David and Jennifer Atkins. *Marcia Hirshberg*

David and Jennifer Atkins moved to Westwood in 2005 from the San Jose area of California. Jennifer was originally from Chelmsford and went to school at BU. She had been a tax consultant but now spends her time with the couples' 3 kids, ages 4, 2 1/2 and 8 months. Dave was originally from Virginia, went to school at MIT and is a technical operations manager for a start up media company. You probably know Dave from the Westwood Blog!

Remember we lobby!

Members make us strong. Members make us heard!

YOU can help reach our goal of 100 members.

You can—

- √ Send Marcia names of potential members
- √ Spread the word about this great organization
- √ Encourage people to join
- √ Come to meetings and bring friends and family



# PROPOSED CALENDAR

## LWVUS initiates two reviews of old positions

### **LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) Discussion List Available (NEW)**

The LWVUS NPV discussion list, open to all League members, allows participants to share information about resources, ways to effectively educate League members on the NPV Compact, the consensus process and ideas about preparing for and holding consensus meetings. The discussion list is NOT a venue for debating NPV issues. Each League should have at least one member on the NPV discussion list to share ideas and/or ask questions about the study/consensus process.

[Click here](#) for the NPV Study section at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to subscribe to the discussion list or [click here](#) to login.

### **LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force**

The LWVUS is pleased to announce the formation of a seven-member Health Care Education Task Force. Twenty-seven well-qualified League members applied and we very much appreciated the broad interest and passion for health care exemplified by our members nationwide. The Task Force members are Olin Bray (NM), Sue Bredensteiner (TN), Robin Lane (NC), Susan Leinberger (PA), Doris Nelson (CA) and Rhonda Tewes (MA). LWVUS/EF Director Janis McMillen is chair of the Task Force, whose purpose is to design a program for educating our members about health care.

### **November**

- 03            Steering committee meeting  
(all members are invited to attend; call 781-326-8784)
- 04            Presidential and State elections
- 11            Meet with Diane Jeffrey, LWVM president.  
(Check the website for more information)

### **December**

- 07            Annual Holiday Party with Legislators and Collection for the Diane DeVanna Center in our fight against domestic violence  
(Check the November Bulletin, emails and website for more information)