

The Bulletin

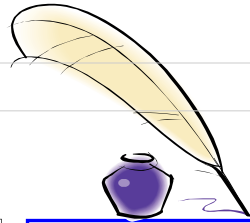
Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters



Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2006

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Calendar of Events

Special points of interest:

- Calendar
- Harrington's Pool Party
- Dues are due
- Election News
- State & Nation Studies
- Fall Kick Off
- Guardian of Democracy Dinner
- Upcoming Programs
 - Domestic Violence
 - Toxins in the Environment

Steering Committee

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Walpole Hazardous

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Rose Smith

Welcome Back to Another Full Year Of League Events

The Westwood-Walpole Steering Committee Adminstrates the Local League.

All members are welcome to attend SC meetings.

Interested? Call Jane Nash 781-769-1185.

September

17th—Primary Election see [pages 6-9](#)

For District 9 Congressional Candidates Comments

21st —LWVM Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner

See [pages 10 & 11 for more information](#)

25th —Fall Kick Off: 7:30

First Parish Hall, Corner of Nahatan and Clapboardtree Strs

See [page 5 for more information](#)

October

8th —SC meeting

12th —Local Program on Domestic Violence

with Jane Doe representative Layla D'Emila

Westwood Public Library; 7:30

See [page 12 for more information](#)

November

13th Local Program—Toxins in the Environment: what can we do?

Speaker is Leise Jone of Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow/Clean Water

Action who spoke at the MayLWVM Council Meeting

[see page 12 & More to come!!](#)

19th—Mid-term General Election

December

TBA Holiday Party



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

Leaguers having fun at Harrington's



DUES ARE DUE



Help your membership chair! Pay now.

Make Checks payable to LWV;

Mail to: PO Box 294 Westwood MA 02090

DUES

• New Student	\$25
• New Single or returning member	\$25
• New Single or returning member supporting	\$35
• New Family	\$45
• *New Family supporting	\$55

• Renewal Student	\$25
• Renewal Single	\$50
• Renewal Single supporting	\$60
• *Renewal Family	\$75
• *Renewal Family supporting	\$85

***All members must reside at same address**



HELP INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP

- **Invite friends and family to join the League**
- **Give a membership as a gift**
- **Bring your friends and family to League events like :**

Fall Kick Off
Monday, September 25 at 7:30
First Parish Hall

NEW STUDIES AT STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL

LWV of Massachusetts Affordable Housing Study Status

An Affordable Housing Study was adopted at the May 2005 LWV of Massachusetts Convention, and the Study Group has been making progress within the scope as outlined below:

Social Policy

Study: Affordable Housing

Scope: To evaluate legislation, regulations and programs in Massachusetts; to determine their effectiveness in providing affordable housing; and to propose a new position through consensus or concurrence.

Study may include, but is not limited to:

- Senior housing
- Effect of Chapter 40B, Massachusetts' Comprehensive Permit statute, on cities and towns
- "Smart growth" concepts

In addition, as a direction to the board, the Lexington League urged the addition of a land-use component to the affordable housing study.

Study group members represent a number of Massachusetts towns, including Andover/North Andover, Arlington, Lexington, Natick, Newton, Topsfield/Boxford/Middleton, Westford and Westwood/Walpole.

Study group members have begun to draft sections of the informational materials, which will be consolidated for distribution to local Leagues. The materials will also include topics like the effect of Community Preservation Act, Inclusionary Zoning, federally subsidized Section 8, local accessory dwelling units, elderly housing, expiring use, trusts and Housing Authority units. Local Leagues can use the materials to evaluate the importance of affordable housing in their communities and to consider whether or not to support a new state position on Affordable Housing. The Study Group intends to create a sample "needs assessment form," which local Leagues may find helpful in the process of considering a possible new position through consensus or concurrence.

The Study Group plans to complete and distribute these materials this fall and winter. Local Leagues can review and discuss them locally or at regional meetings. Study Group members will be available to present the information gathered and facilitate discussion at these meetings.

If you would like further information, please contact Jane Nash at 781-769-1185. **Perhaps you would be interested in forming a small local committee on affordable housing.. The local committee would be responsible for organizing one meeting and the dissemination of material given them by State Committee.**

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATE STUDY ON FISCAL POLICY AND THE NATIONAL STUDY ON IMMIGRATION WHICH WILL COME VIA EMAIL AND THE BULLETIN!!

Annual Kick Off September 25



Westwood Walpole League of Women Voters

INVITES YOU TO:

*An Evening With Timothy Reardon
MAPC Regional Planner*

**TOPIC: REGIONAL GROWTH TRENDS:
WESTWOOD & WALPOLE
GROWING SMART**

DATE: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

**PLACE: FIRST PARISH HALL—WESTWOOD
(Corner of Nahatan & Clapboardtree Streets)**

TIME: 7:30p.m.

Voter Service —District 9 Congressional Election

The Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters joined with the 8 other local Leagues in our Congressional District [9] in an attempt to sponsor a candidates' forum prior to the Primary on Tuesday, September 19th. We invited Congressman Lynch, his Democratic opponent, Phil Dunkelbarger, and the Republican candidate, Jack Robinson to attend. Unfortunately, Congressman Lynch was unable to find a date which would allow him to attend because of his schedule in Washington. Therefore, we were unable to hold the forum – it is against FCC and LWV rules to hold a forum if only one candidate for a seat is able to attend.

As an alternative, the LWVs of District 9 sent three questions to each of the candidates, giving them a limit of 100 words per question. Below you will find their responses. We certainly would have preferred to sponsor a direct, face to face forum, but we hope this will help voters learn more about the positions of the candidates. The LWV encourages each of you to visit the websites of the candidates in order to make your vote on September 19th an informed one.

The questions:

- 1. What do you see as the next step in our country's involvement in Iraq and what would be your role as our Congressperson?**
- 2. What is your position on U.S. Immigration policies and undocumented workers?**

What steps would you take as a Congressperson to improve job and economic development in our district?

The Answers to these questions from the three candidates are on the next three pages.

Responses from Incumbent Congressman Stephen Lynch— Democrat

Question #1 What do you see as the next step in our country's involvement in Iraq and what would be your role as our Congressperson?

Answer: Since President Bush now refuses to consider withdrawing troops during his Presidency, it is more important that Democrats gain control of Congress.

Like most democrats I oppose his "stay the course" strategy. I believe our next step should be to transfer control of Iraq to the Iraqi government. It is a necessary precondition to an orderly withdrawal of troops. Separately, I have introduced the Iraq Transition Act, establishing a national commission to hold the Bush Administration accountable for shifting government operations from our military to the Iraqi government. This would help create conditions for U.S. withdrawal.

Question #2: What is your position on U.S. Immigration policies and undocumented workers?

Answer: Our immigration system is completely broken. T

he U.S. has operated with "open borders" for many years. After 9/11 our policy necessarily changed. We now have to secure our borders. But we must reform immigration policy in a way that strengthens our security while offering a path to citizenship to law-abiding, hardworking immigrants who want to become U.S. Citizens. It is unrealistic to believe that we can deport all 12 million illegal immigrants. Instead, we should create a reliable process that gradually allows them to come forward and earn the opportunity to become citizens.

Question #3: What steps would you take as a Congressperson to improve job and economic development in our district?

Answer: As a member of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, I spent a lot of time on this issue. The short answer is that I've focused on educating our citizens for the new economy. Many "new economy" jobs require math/science backgrounds.

These are jobs in healthcare, finance, high tech, medical research and biotech industries.

That is why I co-founded the Boston Collegiate Charter School (gr. 5-12) to give enhanced math and science instruction to inner-city students. I also sponsor the "Year-Up" program which trains minorities and non-traditional students for financial services industry jobs.

Congressman Stephan Lynch—Democrat

Email: Stephen.lynch@mail.house.gov

Website: www.house.gov/lynch

Responses— Opposition Candidate Philip Dunkelbarger—Democrat

Question #1: What do you see as the next step in our country's involvement in Iraq and what would be your role as our Congressperson?

Answer: The Congress should enact the Murtha and McGovern Bills, the existing legislation to govern disengaging militarily from Iraq. The Congress should pass a resolution, calling on the Administration to bring the matter of additional assistance to the people of Iraq (security, physical and economic reconstruction, etc.) to the U.N. with a pledge of specific financial support. Congress should review the sufficiency of compensation to soldiers and military families, with the intention to increase both compensation and benefits. Hopefully the disengagement is achieved prior to my taking office. As for assisting Iraq through the U.N. and improved treatment of veterans, I would introduce such initiatives.

Question #2: What is your position on U.S. Immigration policies and undocumented workers?

Answer: Congress should increase funding to the INS for enforcement of existing laws and enact stiffer penalties for employers of undocumented workers. To address the resultant social problems, I would favor the current Senate Bill.

Question #3: What steps would you take as a Congressperson to improve job and economic development in our district?

Answer: Military spending on new weapons systems should be cut significantly, redirecting those resources to domestic spending, particularly improvements to public infrastructure. This investment (in roads, bridges, mass transit, schools, etc.), which should be distributed proportionally to congressional districts, would provide jobs for construction trades in the 9th District. Making taxation more progressive, working to narrow the gap between those who have more and those who have less, would increase the amount of money in circulation, increasing economic activity, increasing jobs. Transferring, on an orderly basis, our commitment to "Free" trade to a commitment to "Fair" trade, and enacting Universal Health Care.

Philip Dunkelbarger—Democrat

Email: dunkelbargerdemocrat@comcast.net

Website: www.DunkDem.org

Responses— Opposition Candidate Jack Robinson-- Republican

Question #1: What do you see as the next step in our country's involvement in Iraq and what would be your role as Congressperson?

Answer: Iraq has emerged as the only genuine democracy in the Arab world and an ally, rather than an adversary, in the Global War on Terror. Despite violent opposition, a growing number of the 15 million eligible voters have chosen to participate in the political process. While we won the war, we now risk losing the peace. As your Congressman, I will push for ultimate victory in Iraq by taking actions that enhance security, strengthen civil society, eliminate sectarian violence, and lay the foundation for economic growth and conditions that facilitate the speedy return of U.S. forces.

Question #2: What is your position on U.S. Immigration policies and undocumented workers?

Answer: America's immigration policy should be coherent and orderly while securing the nation's borders and ports of entry. I support immigration reform that combines increased border and workplace enforcement with a guest-worker system for newcomers and a multiyear path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already here provided that they meet certain requirements like living crime free, learning English and paying fines and taxes. This will allow market forces, rather than the prevailing political winds, to determine how many economic migrants can enter the country. It will also reduce pressure on the border.

Question #3: What steps would you take as a Congressperson to improve job and economic Development in our district?

Answer: I am the only candidate who has signed the no-tax pledge while Mr. Lynch received an "F" from the National Taxpayer Union. We need a targeted economic stimulus package for the District which will provide regulatory relief and tax incentives to stimulate job growth and promote economic development and community revitalization. Mr. Lynch has been an absentee representative and has done nothing for the District, while at the same time accepting over half a million dollars in political contributions from Big Dig contractors and labor unions as the Big Dig crumbles.

Jack E. Robinson—Republican
Email: jack@jackforcongress.us
Website: www.jackforcongress.us

Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner

We now have about 7 people going from Westwood and Walpole. We are trying to get up a table of Ten. We expect to have a wonderful time while we raise money for the state league. Cost is \$150 but \$75 is tax deductible.

Call Marcia Hirshberg at 781-326-8784 and join us for a great evening.

Guardian of Democracy

Award Dinner

September 21, 2006

Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston

honoring

Paul La Camera

General Manager, The WBUR Group

For over 86 years, the League of Women Voters, the premier nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization, has been engaged in the fight to ensure that we have a responsive and responsible democracy. The League works tirelessly at the local, state, and national levels to secure a healthy democracy.

Today democracy is under threat – not only from excessive government secrecy and erosion of our civil rights, but also from low voter turnout and voters' lack of information on the issues. It is the mission of the League of Women Voters to combat these threats.

This new Guardian of Democracy award honors those unique individuals who:

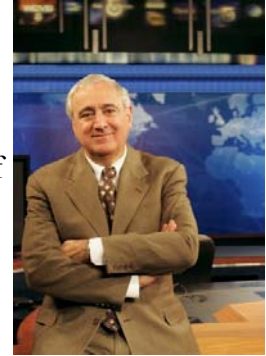
- **have made a significant contribution to the active and informed participation of citizens in their government, and**
- **demonstrate a commitment to democracy and democratic processes.**

PAUL LA CAMERA

Paul La Camera

For nearly four decades, Paul La Camera has promoted the informed and active participation of Massachusetts citizens in their government through his acclaimed work as a leader in local media and as a community activist.

La Camera continues to promote democracy and democratic processes in his role as general manager of The WBUR Group. WBUR-FM built its reputation as one of the nation's premier National Public Radio affiliates by reporting in depth on even the most complicated of issues. Under La Camera's leadership, the station carries on its long tradition of helping people better understand the issues affecting their lives and assisting them in making informed decisions. Its recent five-part series, "Boston at the Crossroads," examined the forces shaping Boston's future, taking a critical look at the city's economic roots, the significant changes that have shaped the city and the challenges and opportunities facing Greater Boston. A follow-up call-in program gave Boston-area residents the chance to take part in charting the city's future, and, to supplement the series, an associated website features a wealth of additional information in a variety of media formats.



Before joining WBUR in October, 2005, La Camera worked for more than 33 years at WCVB-TV, Boston's ABC affiliate. During his almost 12 years as president and general manager, WCVB received numerous local, regional and national awards, becoming one of the most-honored commercial TV stations in the country. WCVB introduced the groundbreaking practice of Spanish-language closed-captioning for newscasts, ensuring that news is accessible to the Spanish-speaking community. It was also the first station in the country to pledge five minutes of candidate discourse each night in the 30 days leading up to elections.

Earlier in his career, La Camera served as Director of Communications for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and as a local newspaper reporter.

La Camera has also made important contributions to the national discourse on media issues. He served on the Gore Commission, which advised the Clinton administration on the public interest obligations of digital television broadcasters, and testified before the Federal Communications Commission and U.S. House Telecommunications Subcommittee.

Reflecting his deep commitment to his community, La Camera has long been actively involved in a wide variety of local charitable organizations. He is a board member of the Boston Foundation, Boston Public Library Foundation, United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and serves as a trustee of his alma mater, Holy Cross.

He has been recognized as a distinguished alumnus of Boston University's College of Communication and has received the Sanctae Crucis Award from Holy Cross. He has also received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Boston's Emmanuel College and was given the Torch of Liberty Award by the Anti-Defamation League.

A Winthrop native, La Camera lives in Boston with his wife Mimi, president of Boston's Freedom Trail Foundation. They have three adult sons, Mark, Peter and Christopher.

HEADS UP: PROGRAMS COMING

IN OCTOBER



LEARN HOW WE CAN PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Come hear Layla D’Emillia-Shepherd, Esq. Senior Policy Analyst for Jane Doe, Inc. speak about what we can do to prevent domestic violence. She will tell us what legislations is needed and how we can help the necessary laws get passed.

DATE: October 12, 2006

TI ME: 7:30p.m.

PLACE: WESTWOOD MAIN LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

IN NOVEMBER



TOXINS IN THE ENVIRONMENT: WHAT CAN WE DO?

COME HEAR **Leise Jones** of *Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow* speak about what toxins are in the air around us.

The plans are not quite set, but Phoebe Joseph, Coordinator of the Event, is aiming for Monday, November 28th.

Mark your calendar and wait for further information via email and the Bulletin.