

**LWVMA PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL
STATUS REPORT
Prepared by Karen Price, May 30, 2011**

Through the Strategic Planning process, we identified support for local Leagues as a major area that needs improvement and is essential for the health of the League. To meet that need, the Presidents' Council was proposed. At this point, it is still an idea that needs further study and development. The LWVMA Presidents' Council was adopted as part of the Strategic Plan by Convention May 21. At Convention, there was a Workshop led by Karen Price, where ideas and strategies for supporting local Leagues were discussed.

The primary goal of the Presidents' Council is to increase the interaction of the local Leagues with LWVMA and with each other, for the continued success of the League. For the past few years, with the required cost-cutting measures that the LWVMA has made, local Leagues have received less communication and support. To improve communication and help strengthen each other, LL presidents need to get together and give LWVMA guidance on what is needed, and take some of burden of planning and implementation upon themselves. The Presidents' Council will be composed of all local League presidents (or whatever they are called) in Massachusetts.

The convention workshop was attended by several current, past, and future presidents, field service representatives, and other interested participants. Sanford Ostroy, newly-elected board member, also attended. The discussion was structured to solicit input from the attendees while at the same time assessing the needs of the various Leagues represented, especially in terms of communication with their members, with LWVMA, and with other Leagues. For planning purposes the workshop was extremely valuable.

The top activities that attendees were interested in getting off the ground were:

1. LWV presidents' listserv. The listserv should be monitored and regulated so it does not become overwhelming. The listserv was requested at the last Presidents' Breakfast, fall 2009, but was never implemented.
2. A sharing section of the LWVMA website. Ideally a place where presidents can go and easily upload information such as the following:
 - Annual meeting agendas and speakers
 - Local studies depository
 - Fundraisers
 - Programs for members and community with contacts
 - Bulletin sharing
 - Share the success! Programs, advocacy, studies, etc.
3. A presidents' training, "nuts and bolts" in the coming year. Topics (for example)
 - Electronic bulletin and websites
 - The LWVUS consensus meetings coming up in fall and spring
 - Community programs such as running for office
 - Working with your local cable TV station

4. Welcome letter and link to presidents' packet and league basics when elected. Offer mentoring if needed (eg if LL president is not available/appropriate to train successor).
5. Strive to have at least two publications a year from LWVMA to all members.

What is needed to make the Presidents' Council a Success (and thereby reinvigorate LLs)

- Get listserve up and running.
- Improving the LWVMA database of presidents and board members: "League Leaders." I wrote an email to everyone on a list Natalie provided me, and about five of the 25 attendees said they got it. Granted, not all attending were presidents.
- Investigate possibilities for sharing section on LWVMA website.
- Investigate surveying software. I have in mind 1-2 question surveys throughout the year on single topics.
- Plan Presidents' Training venue and date.
- Review the field service program and make recommendations.

The Presidents' Council has a Steering Committee composed of LL presidents and other active members. The Steering Committee includes:

Karen Price, LWV Needham President and LWVMA Board member

Carin Kale, LWV Hamilton-Wenham President

Marilyn Peterson, LWV Acton Area Co-Chair

Launa Zimmaro, LWV Concord-Carlisle and LWVMA Program Specialist

Anna Whitcomb, LWV Belmont, immediate past President

Anne Borg, LWV Newton Leadership Committee and LWVMA Board member