



The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts



League Leaders Update August 19, 2009

LWVMA Calendar

- Aug. 26 -LWVMA Board Meeting - 133 Portland Street**

- Sept. 8 -Phonathon Email- Sent to all Members**
- Sept. 16 -Phonathon Training Sessions Begin via Conference Call**
- Sept. 30 -LWVMA Board Meeting - 7pm - 9pm**
Hosted by LWV Concord/Carlisle- Harvey Wheeler Community Center

- Oct. 3 -Presidents' Breakfast- Weymouth High School- Weymouth, MA**
- Oct. 12 -LWVMA Virtual Phonathon Begins**
- Oct. 28 -LWVMA Board Meeting- 7pm - 9pm**
Hosted By LWV Arlington - Robbins Library
- Oct. 31 -LWVMA Virtual Phonathon Ends**

From the Board of Directors



Calling all Leaguers!

Have you wondered what the LWVMA or the "State League" does? Have you also wondered how you could be part of the action? Have you thought it might be too much to add to your already busy schedule? Well, wonder no more!

The State League is all of us, all Leagues throughout Massachusetts.

As the new Board of Directors gears up for an active term, we are on the lookout for more of our colleagues who are active at the local level to join us at the state level. This could include: participating in a few conference calls, meeting with members of local Leagues in your area to address issues of concern within your League or more widely in your communities, encouraging others to support the League financially, joining a statewide standing committee such as Citizen Education, Membership & Training, Fundraising & Development, or Program & Action, or one of the re-study committees now forming on Transportation and Home Rule.

Most of us joined the League for the action - whatever we thought that to be - candidate forums, advocating for issues important to us, ensuring the right to vote, and having the opportunity to share and learn with other like-minded individuals in an atmosphere that values intelligence and thoughtfulness, the desire for fairness, and to work for change to achieve it. At the state level of the League of Women Voters there are many opportunities to join the action with as little or as much time as you want or are able to contribute. Many hands will make light work to achieve our goals.

Please contact any [board member](#) or Executive Director Shawna Reid at 617-523-2999 to learn more.



Help LWVMA Reach Phonathon Goal - Plan for October Now

While it may seem a long way off, planning for this year's Annual Phonathon Campaign is well underway. As LWVMA approaches its 90th birthday on May 27, 2010, our goal for Phonathon this year is to raise \$90,000 in donations- \$1,000 dollars for every year the League has been defending democracy in the Commonwealth! \$90 from 1,000 donors- are you ready to help?

To learn more, please [click here](#).

From President Zaxaro Bennett

Study Committees: Transportation and Home Rule

During Program Planning at Convention 2009, the LWVMA membership recommended two re-studies for this biennium. One concerns our Transportation position of 1975 and the other is our Home Rule position last studied in 1966. I'd like to encourage anyone interested in either subject to get involved with one or both of these committees. To help clear up any frequently asked questions, I'm listing a series of common questions in the link below to help spur you on to jump right onto a committee.

Link to [Study Committee FAQs](#)

I'm ready to join a committee. What do I do now?

Anyone wishing to join the re-study committee for either Transportation or Home Rule, please call the League office at 617-523-2999. Let us know your name, local League or town, phone number and email address. As soon as we have a list of people, we'll help you get organized so you can begin the important and fun work of conducting a League study. I had a wonderful time working on the Fiscal Policy Study and would be happy to talk to anyone needing more information on the process, activity and organization of a study committee. Please feel free to call me or email me as well - zbennett@lvma.org, or 617-523-2999.

Link to [LWVMA Transportation Position](#) | Link to [LWVMA Home Rule Position](#)

Program and Action



LWVMA Health Care Committee Recommends...

Your Health Care Specialist, Judy Deutsch, highly recommends the DVD, "Health Money and Fear" as a program addition for your local cable access stations. Produced by ER Physician Paul Hochfeld, the film presents a comprehensive picture of our present health care system.

"Amazing footage, speakers such as Marcia Angell, Arnold Relman and Steffie Woolhandler, make this one of the best documentaries I have seen in my 9 years of intensive work in the

Health Care field! This is an excellent educational tool."

- Judy Deutch, LWVMA Health Care Specialist

Order the DVD directly from film maker and physician, Paul Hochfeld by phone or email.
541-740-4065

The film is free, but donations are accepted. Order today and make sure your Cable Access station gets a copy with your personal recommendation!

Please click on the links below for order information and a preview.

[View Preview of Film](#) | [Order DVD /Contact Dr.Paul Hochfeld](#)

Take Action on Health Care Today

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. Business as usual is not an option.

Click to [TAKE ACTION NOW](#)

State Education Committee Meeting

Please note that the Education Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, September 9 @ 7pm at Terry Yoffie's house, 363 Waverley Avenue, Newton, MA. All who are interested in the committee are encouraged to join us to learn more.

If you are interested in participating in the League's State Education Committee, please contact me, Terry Yoffie, LWVMA Education Specialist, at tsyoffie@yahoo.com or 617-965-1796.

LWVMA Supports Ballot Initiative to Allow Instant Runoff Voting

August 5, 2009 - LWVMA President Zaxaro Bennett signed a petition on behalf of the League or Women Voters of Massachusetts for a ballot initiative to allow for instant runoff voting in Massachusetts. [Read more...](#)

Membership and Training

Save the Date for Presidents' Breakfast

Local League Presidents or Co-Chairs please plan on attending the annual Presidents' Breakfast at the Weymouth High School on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Breakfast will be prepared by the Weymouth High School Culinary Arts students at the Weymouth High School. This is always a favorite and informative event for local League leaders and state board members to connect at the start of the new League year.

LWVMA President Zaxaro Bennett will share her ideas for the future and the Membership and Training Committee will be on hand to collect your ideas and suggestions.

LWVMA Phonathon Chair Jo-Ann Berry will be leading a Phonathon Workshop for anyone interested in this important training opportunity.

What: LWVMA Presidents' Breakfast

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Where: Weymouth High School, 1 Wildcat Way, South Weymouth, MA

Cost: \$10/person

Why: Get up-to-date information, network with old friends, have fun!

For more information, email or call the office at 617.523.2999 or sreid@lwmma.org.

Enjoy the last days of summer and we will be looking forward to seeing you all in October!