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The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts



League Leaders Update - July 22, 2009

LWVMA Calendar

2009 - 2010 Calendar Dates

- July 1** -First Quarter Per Member Payments due to State
- July 29** -LWVMA Board Meeting - 6pm - 8pm
133 Portland Street, Boston
- Aug. 2** -LWVMA Board Retreat - 8am - 4pm
Endicott College, Beverly, MA
- Aug. 31** -Phonathon Coordinators Identified at Local Level
- Sept. 8** -Phonathon Email Sent to all Members
- Sept. 16** -Phonathon Training Sessions via Conference Call
- Sept. 30** -LWVMA Board Meeting - 7pm - 9pm
Hosted by LWV Concord-Carlisle, site tbd
- Oct. 3** -Presidents' Breakfast- site tbd
- Oct. 12** -LWVMA Virtual Phonathon Begins
- Oct. 31** -LWVMA Virtual Phonathon Ends

Phonathon Goes Virtual for LWVMA 90th Birthday

Help LWVMA Reach Phonathon Goal for our 90th Year Celebration

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!

After much deliberation between the Board of Directors, staff, and League members, LWVMA has decided to re-vamp Phonathon and bring it into the 21st century. Our Phonathon campaign this year, "**90 for 90**", will cut costs AND provide greater financial incentives for local Leagues.

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

Please be aware that LWVUS will be conducting its telemarketing appeal during late September / early October. Members are certainly free to contribute where they wish, but should be aware that both campaigns will be happening at the same time.

State House Action

Legislative Update

While the Program and Action Committee will not be meeting again until August 20, there is still a great deal of work being done this summer. Please click on the link below for a brief summary of actions taken recently on legislation currently being supported by the League.

[Read on...](#)

Program and Action

Education Committee Forming

Are you interested in public education in Massachusetts? If so, we need you! We are in the beginning stages of forming a group focusing on public education here in Massachusetts and are seeking League members interested in educational policy. The group will discuss present-day challenges in our educational system, and work with the state League to build relationships within the educational community and in government. We will also be surveying current and proposed legislation the Legislature is reviewing and work to establish educational priorities and ideas for our membership to consider.

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.

I would like to schedule a meeting for the 3rd week in August if enough who are interested are available.

LWVMA Study Committees on Transportation and Home Rule

Study Committees: Transportation and Home Rule

As you're all aware, last month during 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](#)

Administration

Annual Meeting Reports and Board Lists

Please send your Local League Board List, your approved budget for FY 09/10 and your Program Report to the state League office. The slate of officers from 08-09 will be deleted from the database and the new information will be added - we need the entire slate from every League- not just the changes or newly elected board members. Don't forget to send the same information to LWVUS.

Mail to: LWVMA 133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114
Email to: lvvma@lvvma.org (list in body of email is fine)
Fax to: 617.248.0881

[Click here](#) for New Board List Report Form

LWVMA Invites Local Leagues to Host State Board Meetings

The LWVMA Board of Directors is asking local Leagues to host the State Board meetings in their communities this year. In an effort to foster better communication between the LWV members and the LWVMA Board of Directors, the Board wants to hear first hand from our members. The State Board usually meets the last Wednesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Local Leagues are encouraged to submit agenda items or discussion topics two weeks before the scheduled monthly meetings. Please click the links below for a list of guidelines and available meeting dates.

To schedule a LWVMA Board meeting in your town, contact Shawna Reid at 617.523.2999 or sreid@lvvma.org.

[LWVMA Hosting Guidelines](#) | [LWVMA Board Meeting Dates](#)

Membership and Training

LWVUS Fabulous New Membership Resource

The Little Green Book: A New Resource for Nominating Committees Nationwide, leadership challenges are one of the biggest problems facing state and local Leagues, and Nominating Committees are absolutely critical in the effort to solve this problem.

Thanks to the hard work of LWVUS Board Member Marcia Merrins, the LWVUS has a valuable resource to offer local and state Leagues. The Little Green Book contains tips on building a stronger board, finding leaders, a helpful FAQ, job descriptions, succession planning and, most importantly, success stories! The Little Green Book is available from the link below and on the 2009 State Convention CD provided at your state convention.

Please contact the state office if you did not get the CD, it is full of useful information. A

PowerPoint presentation that reinforces the topics covered in the publication is also available.

[Click here](#) for **The Little Green Book**

For more membership information, contact Marcia Hirshberg at hberg40@verizon.net.