

# League of Women Voters of Massachusetts League Leaders Update

**Friday, February 13, 2009**

**LWVMA CALENDAR**



**Feb. 13, 2009 - State Program Planning Due**

**Feb. 19, 2009 - Program & Action - 133 Portland Street**

**Feb. 25, 2009 - LWVMA Citizen Ed. - 133 Portland Street**

**Feb. 25, 2009 - LWVMA Board Meeting - Newton Marriott**

**March 4, 2009 - Day on the Hill - State House**

**March 12, 2009 - Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner**

**April 5, 2009 - Essay Contest Awards - Faneuil Hall**

**May 29/30, 2009 - Convention 2009 - Newton Marriott**

Visit our website at [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org) for more information.

## Administration

### Help Wanted

#### **LWVMA Budget Committee for Convention 2009**

Please join me in developing the League of Women Voter's Budget for next year, 2009-2010. This is a difficult year for the League financially and I need help with developing a budget that responds to all of our local League's needs while being fiscally responsible for the future.

Since we will conduct our meetings by telephone, the time commitment is limited and the phone meeting dates are as follows; Feb. 26th, March 5th and March 10th.

The time can be arranged at the convenience of those participating. I can be reached daytime (978) 374-1182 or evenings (978) 374-6869, my email is [evalentine@lwvma.org](mailto:evalentine@lwvma.org). I look forward to hearing from you and thanks!

**Eva Valentine CFP, CSA**

Treasurer LWV of Massachusetts

President LWV of Greater Haverhill

## PROGRAM AND ACTION

### **Day on the Hill - March 4, 2009**

#### **Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public's Trust**

We invite all League members to attend our annual Day on the Hill program on Wednesday morning, March 4, 2009, at the Massachusetts State House. Registration and a light breakfast will be in Nurses' Hall at 9:00a.m. The program will be from 10:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. in Gardner Auditorium. Transparency in government is a primary topic of discussion during this post-partisan era and we look forward to involving League members in the conversation.

We are very excited to welcome the following panelists whose extensive knowledge and experience should generate many questions from our attendees:

- Judith Meredith, Executive Director, The Public Policy Institute
- William R. Keating, Norfolk District Attorney and former State Senator
- Janet Domenitz, Executive Director, MassPirg
- Pam Wilmot, Executive Director, Common Cause

The panelists have been asked to discuss conditions that obscure our citizens' ability to identify processes in State government regarding the creation and passage of legislation, the development of regulation and our ability to access public documents. They have also been asked to highlight activities the League and its members can undertake to effectively address these conditions.

The Program and Action Committee is working hard to assemble a legislative agenda and packet for League members to use for lobbying activities during the current legislative session and our Day on the Hill event.

Contact Carole Pelchat, LWVMA Vice President for Program and Action, at 617-523-2999 or [cpelchat@lwwma.org](mailto:cpelchat@lwwma.org), if you have any suggestions or require any further information about our Day on the Hill event.

We look forward to joining you for a timely and informative Day on the Hill.

## Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner

### **Honoring Paul Guzzi**

The Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner is only weeks away. Congressman Barney Frank and Former Suffolk County D.A., Ralph C. Martin II, are the featured speakers. Also, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin and Mayor Thomas Menino will be there to welcome the guests. This is a special event, and one you don't want to miss!

Tickets are \$150 each, half of that amount is tax-deductible. Please visit the [Guardian of Democracy](#) page for more information.

Don't forget to ask others to join you on March 12 at the Marriott Copley Place for an exciting evening when we will have an great opportunity to showcase the League to new people.

Click here to download a flyer. [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

## MEMBERSHIP AND TRAINING

### **LWVMA Convention 2009: May 29 and 30, 2009**

Please mark you calendars for the 2009 LWVMA Convention, Health Care Rx: Challenges and Solutions for our State and the Nation. More information will be included in later League Leaders Updates and on the LWVMA website, [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org).

### **Proposed Amendments to LWVMA Bylaws due February 29, 2009**

Article XIV of the LWVMA bylaws requires that local Leagues submit proposed amendments to the LWVMA board at least three months before the state Convention. The LWVMA board will send all proposed amendments, with recommendations, to the president of each local League in April 2009. A list of all of the proposed amendments is included in the Convention workbook for possible consideration at convention.

Please return the form in the link below to the LWVMA office by March 1, 2009, if you have any proposed amendments that you would like considered.

[LWVMA Bylaws](#) | [Bylaws Return Form](#)

You may submit proposals by mail, email or fax to:

LWVMA Executive Director  
Shawna Reid, [sreid@lwvma.org](mailto:sreid@lwvma.org)  
133 Portland Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
Fax: (617) 248-0881

### **Dyna-Member Award for Convention 2009**

Does your League have a newer member who stands out from the crowd? Someone who has truly made a difference in your League? Then this dynamic, relative newcomer in your midst is a Dyna-Member, and LWVMA's Membership and Training Committee wants to know all about your League's good fortune!

The Dyna-Member Award will be presented to selected nominees and their local Leagues at the LWVMA Convention Awards Luncheon on Saturday, May 30, 2009. Nominations are due by Friday, May 1, 2009 to Wendy Manz at [wmanz@lwvma.org](mailto:wmanz@lwvma.org).

### **Help Wanted**

#### **FIELD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED**

Here's your opportunity to play an important role in the Massachusetts local League network! Field Service Reps are catalysts for cooperation among regional Leagues, key players in the development of local League leaders, and conduits of communication between the local and state levels of the League.

Residency in the Region is not a requirement.

Please contact Field Service Coordinator Pat Costello for more information, and/or to volunteer, at [pcostello@lwvma.org](mailto:pcostello@lwvma.org) or 781-862-6435

## CITIZEN EDUCATION

### **Lottee E. Sharfman Award for Convention 2009 - Submit April 29, 2009**

The Lotte E. Sharfman Award will be presented to three local Leagues at Convention 2009 in May. Nominated Leagues will have conducted creative and innovative Citizen Education or Voter Service activities during 2007 - 2009. Please send us your League's most interesting activity or best effort in these areas.

The Awards will be divided by League size:

1. 25 members or fewer
2. 26-74 members
3. 75 members and up

Activities may include: working with diverse communities; candidates and issues forums; voters guides; student and senior programs; cable, radio and tv programs; get-out-the-vote efforts; warrant meetings; publications; and workshops.

Please describe your Citizen Education or Voter Service activities and attach supporting materials, such as bulletin or local newspaper articles and photos, voters guides, Know Your Town booklets or websites, flyers, forum programs etc.

Submit your information by April 29, 2009 to:

LWVMA  
133 Portland Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
Attention: Shawna Reid, [sreid@lwvma.org](mailto:sreid@lwvma.org)  
Phone: (617) 523-2999

### **Spring Candidates Forums**

We are fast approaching the spring town election season when most local Leagues will be holding candidates forums. As you are organizing these key League events, remember that it is best practice to have a moderator from outside the town. This ensures that there is no conflict of interest for the moderator and that there is no question that your League is sticking to the non-partisan policy.

For assistance in finding a moderator, contact [Kim Jerdon](#) at the LWVMA office for names of LWV moderators in your area.

### **Essay Contest**

The 10th Annual Essay Contest is well underway with students from grades 4-12 and

young adults age 18-24 busy writing about "Democracy and Change: The Newly Elected President." League members serve as judges and there are still opportunities to sign up if you haven't already. Whether or not you participate at that level, please plan to attend the awards ceremony on Sunday, April 5 from 2-4 PM at historic Faneuil Hall in Boston. This event is always inspiring as students read their winning essays from the stage that has hosted so many great speakers in our history. This year we are thrilled to be hosting Dr. Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools.

Complete information about the contest and awards event are at [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org).