

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts League Leaders Update Final Call to Convention 2009

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

LWVMA CALENDAR



April 29 - LWVMA Board Meeting - 133 Portland Street, Boston

May 11 - Convention 2009 - Early Registration Deadline

May 27 - Convention 2009 - Late Registration Deadline

May 29-30, 2009 - Convention 2009 - Boston Newton Marriott, Newton

Visit our website at www.lwvma.org for more information.

FINAL CALL TO CONVENTION 2009

LWVMA Convention: May 29 & 30, 2009 - Boston Marriott Newton

Please Register now for the 2009 LWVMA Convention. The theme this year is "Health Care Rx: Challenges and Solutions for our State and Nation". Confirmed speakers include Former State Representative, Patricia Walrath and Health Policy Expert, Nancy Turnbull; invitations have been extended to others.

State Convention is where we conduct the business of the League and vote in a new Board of Directors and President for the next biennium. This year [delegates](#) will also vote on some proposed amendments to our LWVMA By-laws.

Included in this communication is a packet of Pre-Convention materials. The packet contains items that the LWVMA's bylaws require be sent to local Leagues six weeks before Convention. The non-budget items in this packet will be posted on the LWVMA website.

[Click here for Pre-Convention Materials](#)

[Click here for Convention Registration Packet](#)

CITIZEN EDUCATION

Essay Contest - Awards Ceremony - Sunday, April 5 - Faneuil Hall

The 10th Annual Student Essay Contest Awards Ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston was inspirational and an event to be remembered by all who attended. The hall was packed with

student writers who were recognized with Honorable Mentions, the prize winners, and all their families and teachers. There were more than 1500 essays submitted in the three grade categories combined, making the job of the LWV judges a difficult, but enjoyable task.

Each 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize essayist read from the historic podium in Faneuil Hall, leaving no doubt that intelligent and original thinkers are in the wings to lead our nation. They each received a US Savings Bond and their teachers received classroom grants.

Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, was the keynote speaker. She spoke eloquently about the success that students have in influencing public policy in Boston and how she enjoys every opportunity to encourage and recognize that initiative and spirit that is so important in a civically engaged society. She tied it all together by noting something from each reader's essay that illustrated her points.

The ceremony finished with rousing music lead by the Lesley University Gospel Choir, Unity. They had everyone on their feet, joining in song as a fitting end to an inspirational afternoon. Go to www.lwvma.org to see the photos.

Lotte E. Scharfman Award for Convention 2009 - Deadline- April 29, 2009

The Lotte E. Scharfman 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 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.

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.

The Awards will be divided by League size:

25 members or fewer

26-74 members

75 members and up

Submit your information by April 29, 2009 to: (email or post)

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

Membership and Training

Membership Reminder

Spring is here! As we work through the busy season of town meetings, the State Convention and annual meetings, let's remember to plant the seeds of new membership. Spring school events, local town meetings and activities can be great places for membership drives. Encourage new members to join you and attend convention.

Dyna-Member Award for Convention 2009 - Nominations due Friday, May 1

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@lwwma.org.

Bulletin Awards at Convention 2009 - Send to Pat Facey by April 24

Bulletins are an important source of information for busy League members who have less time to attend meetings and take part in units. Bulletins require a huge commitment of time and effort by local Bulletin Editors and organizers. This award is in recognition of their work.

Awards will be given in each of the following categories:

- Leagues with 50 or fewer members
- Leagues with 51 to 100 members
- Leagues with more than 100 members

- Submit the your best Bulletin for the past year - May 2008 through April 2009.
- Deadline for Bulletin Award is April 24, 2009
- Email submissions to Pat Facey - Bulletins at lwwma@lwwma.org or
- Mail submissions by U.S. Post to:

Bulletin Contest, LWVMA, 133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114

Delegates at the Convention will be the final judges on Friday, May 29. Winners will be announced during the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, May 30.

Award certificates will be mailed to the winning Leagues' Presidents after Convention.