



The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts



Leaders Update- September 18, 2009

LWVMA Calendar

- Sept. 23 -Phonathon Training Conference Call - 4pm**
- 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 - 9am**
- Oct. 7 -Phonathon Training Conference Call - 11am**
- Oct. 12 -LWVMA Phonathon Calling Sessions Begin**
- Oct. 28 -LWVMA Board Meeting- 7pm - 9pm**
Hosted By LWV Arlington - Robbins Library
- Oct. 31 -LWVMA Phonathon - Calling Sessions End**

Annual Phonathon Campaign 90 for 90



The LWVMA's Annual Phonathon Campaign has begun. This year our theme is "90 for 90" in celebration of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts 90th birthday coming up on May 27, 2010. Our Phonathon goal is \$90,000, or \$1,000 for each year the League has been defending democracy in Massachusetts. Everything the League has accomplished so far has been a team effort and raising the funds to continue our work is no different. Thank you for being part of the League team. Our continued success depends on all of us.

Phonathon calling by local Leagues will take place from October 12th until November 1st. This year we are offering local Leagues maximum flexibility in how they set up their calling. Some may choose to meet at a single location to make calls. Others may divide up the pledge slips and ask members to call at their own convenience. Each League will receive its own members to call, plus a selection of other potential League donors and supporters from around the state. Local Leagues will receive 15% of the funds raised during the calling period, in addition to a bonus of \$1 for each credit card contribution. The same share will go to your League for those who [donate before October 2nd.](#)

To help your League get started, you can access following links below:

- [Helpful Tips](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [Talking Points](#)

Phonathon Conference Calls times for answering questions and training have been set. Click on the the date below to email your rsvp- if these times do not work for you, please call the office to schedule an individual call with a committee member.

- [Wednesday, September 23 @ 4:00pm](#)
- [Wednesday, October 7 @ 11:00am](#)

Please review this packet as soon as possible. Call Executive Director Shawna Reid or Campaign Chair Jo-Ann Berry at 617-523-2999 with any questions or concerns.

Citizen Education - Voter Service Project

LWVMA to Sponsor US Senate Seat Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will sponsor a series of candidate forums across the state in the special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Sen. Edward Kennedy.

We are in the early stages of planning and looking for interested League members to join the Candidate Forum Committee. We are working on a compressed time line and plan to sponsor two forums before the December 8th State Primary and one before the January 19th General Election. There will be one time and extended tasks to complete for the event planning and staging phases for the forums.

Attached is a [press release](#) that was sent out on Sept. 1, 2009.

Contact Executive Director [Shawna Reid](#) if you are interested in this short term volunteer opportunity or if you have any questions.

LWVMA Board Member Nancy Duggan wants to Make History

Making History:

Celebrating LWVMA's commitment to making democracy work!

As you know, the LWVMA is approaching 90. Many of our local leagues are celebrating special commemorative years as well. There is much to celebrate! As part of the celebration LWVMA is taking a different kind of action, preserving our history.

We hope to have a collection of local league histories and documentation for a statewide project on the historic impact of the League in Massachusetts. If you have information to share from your local league, accounts of league members making a difference, or know of long time members that would be a good participants in an oral history project, we want your input. If you like to plan events, have experience or interest in collecting history or planning exhibits we need your help! This project will begin as we celebrate our 90th, but will be a lasting tribute to the work of the league as we look towards our future.

Contact Nancy Duggan, nduggan@lwvma.org to assist with this exciting plan.

Advocacy at the State Level



LWVMA State Action

The Program and Action Committee started its work again in August. Bills reviewed and forwarded to the Board for approval were:

- [S. 476, "An Act Promoting Efficient Revenue Use by Certain Health Service Providers"](#)
- [H. 833, "An Act Relative to Producer Responsibility for Discarded Electronic Products"](#)
- H. 651, "An Act Ensuring the Right to Vote"
- H. 4164, "An Act Establishing Readiness Schools"

Health Care Specialist Judy Deutsch and P & A Chair worked with Executive Director Shawna Reid to develop communications to State Senator Lynch and US Senator Kerry in support of Health Care reform. Alerts were sent to local Leagues to seek attendance at a Labor Day Rally on Health Care reform, with many members participating.

In addition, testimony has been developed for presentation to the Financial Services; Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities ([S. 38 Assets Development](#)); and Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Joint Committees (H. 833, see link above).

The Committee is currently reviewing two Constitutional Amendments related to term limits and General Court procedures and bills related to child support and the expansion of the bottle bill.

The LWVMA Board Votes on Interim Senate Appointment

The LWVMA Board voted to take **no position** on the initiative to pass legislation that will allow the Governor to appoint an interim US Senator to fill the late Senator Kennedy's seat. The League did not take a position the last the time the law was changed and felt it appropriate to remain neutral on any issue relating to candidates.

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.

What: LWVMA Presidents' Breakfast

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009

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

Cost: \$12/person ([pay online here. . .](#))

Flyer: [Click here for flyer](#)

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

From President Zaxaro Bennett...the time to volunteer is now!

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@lvvma.org, or 617-523-2999.

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