

# BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2004

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Volume 9 04-05#3

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 30 Sun Forum on Family Homelessness, Trinitarian Congregational Church 7:00 PM  
31 Mon Concord Town Caucus, New Alcott Auditorium 7:30 PM

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 17 Munroe Pl. Concord 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting  
9 Wed LWVCC State Program Planning Meeting, (snow date Feb 10) 9:30 mtg  
245 Main St., Brown Bag lunch to follow  
17 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:30 AM

### MARCH

- 2 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd. Concord 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting  
13 Sun LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum (Snow date March 20) 3:00 PM  
17 Thurs LWVCC Observer Corps Meeting, Everett Gardens 9:30 AM  
23 Wed LWVM "Day on the Hill"  
29 Tues Concord Town Election Polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
30 Wed Public Forum: Universal Health Care in Massachusetts, New Alcott Auditorium 7:00 PM

### APRIL

- 6 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 229 Musketaquid Rd. Concord 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting  
10 Sun LWVM "Making Democracy Work", Faneuil Hall, Boston  
13 Wed LWVCC Local Program Planning, 263 Simon Willard Rd. Concord 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting  
26, 27, 28 Concord Town Meeting, CCHS Auditorium 7:00 PM

### MAY

- 2, 3 Concord Town Meeting, CCHS Auditorium (if needed) 7:00 PM  
4 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting 9 coffee, 9:30 meeting  
13+14 Fri-Sat LWVM State Convention, Wyndham Westborough  
25 Wed LWVCC Annual Meeting, Harvey Wheeler Clock Tower Room

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board and Observer Corps meetings.  
Contact Susan Sekuler or Cindy Nock for Board meeting location.*

# PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Susan Sekuler, Co-Presidents, LWVCC

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Dear Fellow Leaguers,

Dear Leaguers,

The "Blizzard of '05" swirls outside my office window and part of me wishes I had a winter retreat in the Caribbean. But, gazing at the cornfield across from my house I am awestruck by the beauty of the Concord landscape, made even more manifest by the snow that carpets the trees, the rivers, the country roads of the place we call home. Scenes like this make me aware of how lucky I am to live in a town that is not only beautiful but also is filled with concerned and conscientious stewards of our environment. LWVCC is one of the reasons that Concord and Carlisle remain such wonderful places. In the coming months we have planned numerous activities to tempt you to get out that snow shovel and put on your parka to come join us. Here are but a few of the LWVCC events to warm our winter hearts.

- Those who missed the evening with the Concord, Carlisle and Minuteman School Superintendents and want to avoid the cold may see the entire program broadcast in the coming weeks on Cable Channel 8.

For braver souls:

- On January 30, there will be a Homelessness Forum at Trinitarian Congregational Church co-sponsored by the League. See the notice inside the Bulletin for details.
- On February 9 we will brainstorm together to suggest topics for the next year's LWVM state program to be voted on in May 13 at the LWVM convention in Westford. Come help set the goals for our next two years.
- March brings more action: local election and town

meeting preparation, including a Candidates Forum for those running in contested local elections; and on March 30 join us for a very special public forum that will delve into the delivery of Health Services in our state and in the nation.

- Members are always welcome to attend Board meetings. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at locations listed in the Bulletin. Come see your LWVCC Board in action.

## Kudos and Thanks

All our programs rely on the diligent efforts of our members. This month I'd like to especially thank Co-President Cindy Nock and Vice President Shawna Reid for organizing the evening with the Superintendents. Barbara Lewis also deserves kudos for the wonderful Member Breakfast which gave old and new members a chance to meet each other, learn about other members' projects and interests and gave all a chance to hear what's going on at the State House from State Rep. Cory Atkins. And a special thank you to all who braved the cold to attend these functions.

Keep warm and I hope to see you all in February,

Susan Sekuler and Cindy Nock  
Co-Presidents

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan grassroots organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Co-Presidents	Cindy Nock	(978) 369-3996
	Susan Sekuler	(978) 369-8025
Membership	Debbie Barr	(978) 287-0627
	Barbara Lewis	(978) 287-0049
Bulletin Editor	Anne Hayden	(978) 369-8526
Webmaster	Li-Jen Lin	<a href="http://lwvma.org">http://lwvma.org</a>

# MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Barr & Barbara Lewis

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This is a very busy time for Membership in the League. In January, National records the number of our members, and uses this number for the year. The amount of dues our local group will pay to the League at the National and State levels are determined by using these same figures. This year we will be communicating our numbers to National in a totally electronic way for the first time. Information is continuously logged on to the LWV National website as membership forms come in and dues are paid. Then on February 1, everything must be as up to date as possible, because that is when the count is taken.

**2004-2005 Membership List.** The list of members for the 2004-2005 year is included in this newsletter. If your name does not appear we have not received your membership renewal form and dues. We welcome these at any time and as soon as we do receive your dues, you will immediately be a member once again. So don't despair if you have missed this deadline. Rejoin right away.

**Email Addresses.** We have also been building a list of email addresses and have begun to use this list to communicate to our Concord and Carlisle members. If you do not receive information at a time when you can use it, it is not worth very much. As the board learns about meetings and lectures and presentations that we feel might be of interest to our members, we will transmit this information to you. We have great concern that we do not over-burden our members with a mass of emails, and so will do our best to limit their size and frequency. If at any time you feel these communications are not of interest to you, please let us know. If you have not received any emails from LWVCC and would like to, then we would love to hear from you. The address to send to is that of Barbara Lewis, membership co-chair. Newsletters and post cards will continue to be sent by postal mail. We do not want to loose touch with ANY of our members.

**Fifty Year members.** Finally, we are interested in knowing if any of the members of LWVCC has

been with the League for 50 years. You do not need to have been a member for all those years here in Concord or Carlisle to be recognized as an Honorary Member. Please get in touch with me, Barbara Lewis, at 978-287-0049, or the email address above, if you are one of our Honorary Members.

*Barbara G. Lewis*

## LWVCC BOOK GROUP

I am interested in forming a LWVCC Book Discussion Group which would meet informally two or three times a year. It would be open to any league member who wants to attend a meeting to discuss that session's book.

Before I start working on this, I would like to have an idea of how many members are interested in this idea and would enjoy attending some of the discussions. If you are interested, please call me (978 369-8526) in the next two weeks. This initial group of people will then help me pick out a book title and time to meet. We will then invite everyone else to join us!

I am also interested in suggestions for books that we could read and discuss. Tracy Kidder's Mountains Beyond Mountains comes to mind, or a recent biography of a current or historical American figure (Ben Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson have all had recent biographies written of them). Any other suggestions? Our focus will probably be nonfiction – but who knows?

I look forward to hearing from many of you soon!

*Anne Hayden*

## **STATE PROGRAM PLANNING**

**Wed, February 9, 2005**

**9:30 AM**

### **245 Main St. (Carol Dwyer's house)**

All League members are invited to attend the State Program Planning meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 245 Main St, (Carol Dwyer's house). We will talk about possible topics for the State League to study next year. These will be voted on at the LWVM Convention on May 13-14 which will be held at the Westborough Wyndham Hotel. A brown bag lunch will follow.

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST**

On Wednesday morning, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the coldest morning to date for the second year in a row, 22 LWVCC members and 5 guests came together at the Colonial Inn so that we could meet each other, learn about the activities that many of us are engaged in for the League and our communities, and enjoy some wonderful conversation and a nice breakfast.

Leading us off in our round-the-room introductions was Rep. Cory Atkins, who gave us a brief synopsis of major issues that will be facing our legislature in this session which is just now getting underway. As I recall, educational funding and health care topped the list. She stressed several times the value of the League's input to her and her colleagues. We are one of the ways she most effectively connects to the community she serves.

Then we spent a most enjoyable time hearing from everyone in the room, veterans and newcomers alike. The most exciting part of this great event was seeing the contacts being made between people who are on a mission, and those who have valuable skills and expertise saying, "How can I be of help?"

One of the most important ideas to come from the Breakfast was that this kind of event should be held several times a year. So look for more Membership events to be announced in the future. Even if you just want to relax and chat for a while (which is what happened for a good time following the breakfast) and hear all about what is happening in the League. Your strong support makes so much possible. Come to the next gathering and be reminded of why you joined LWV. And welcome to Marilyn Hughes, who became a member at the breakfast.

Attending the Membership Breakfast were:  
Barbara Anthony, Cory Atkin, Isabel Bailey,  
Lauren Bakewell, Becky Dewey, Nancy Beeuwkes,  
Janet Beyer, Nancy Fresella-Lee, Anne Hayden,  
Judy Hill, Marilyn Hughes, Nancy James,  
Toby Kramer, Ruth Lauer, Barbara Lewis,  
Dinny MacIntyre, Carol McCarthy, Cindy Nock,  
Evin Phillips, Anne Rarich, Shawna Reid,  
Rita Sagalyn, Susan Sekuler, Betsy Sluder,  
Judith Sprott, Paula Vandever, Rick Wheeler.

# LEAGUE ISSUES

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## **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**March 30, 2005 7:00 PM**

**New Alcott Auditorium**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend an exciting panel of experts on the Massachusetts Health Care Trust bill, (S. 686.) Passage of this “single-payer” health care bill, guarantying first-class health care for all Massachusetts residents, is a priority of the League. The forum will provide a platform to learn about the Massachusetts health care situation, the solution provided by S. 686 and the politics of its passage.

The speakers are:

- Dr. Alan Sager, of Boston University School of Public Health, who will describe the Massachusetts health care situation;
- Margaret O’Malley, RN, Chair, MASS-CARE who will describe the bill;
- Rep. Cory Atkins who will describe the politics of its passage.

For more information contact Paula Vandever at 978-369-9268.

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS**

Following the November election a number of LWVCC Board members were concerned about the multiple voting problems that were reported. As the League is the pre-eminent voters’ organization in the nation, we wrote to LWVUS President Kay Maxwell to urge National to address these issues. The text of the letter is in the Bulletin at page 3.

We are happy to report that LWVUS is indeed taking action. President Maxwell released a statement urging election officials to look into problems. “It is important to ensure that every properly cast ballot is counted and to make improvements for future elections,” Maxwell said. “Attention

must be given to inadequate polling place procedures, problematic voting machines, voter registration system failures, casting and counting of provisional ballots, and absentee voting issues.” Maxwell promised, “The League’s nationwide network of state and local Leagues will continue to work closely with election officials to identify and correct all voting problems.” The full text of the press release is at the LWVUS website: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org);

<file:///Users/susan/Desktop/The%20-%20VOTING%20PROBLEMS.html>

## **A PUBLIC FORUM: FAMILY HOMELESSNESS BELONGS TO US ALL**

**Sunday, January 30, 2005 7-8:45 PM**

**Trinitarian Congregational Church  
54 Walden St, Concord MA**

Women and children are the fastest growing population living in shelters. Attend this forum and

- Learn about the problem and how you can help
- Hear first-hand from a young, formerly homeless mother
- Meet a panel of experts and concerned political representatives
- See a short, powerful video
- Ask questions, share your ideas, and learn about action steps to take.

Panelists include Miriam Stein, Jessica Marrocco, Congressman Marty Meehan (invited), State Rep. Cory Atkins, and Rev. John Lombard, Moderator.

Meet, greet and snack at 7:00 PM.  
Program begins promptly at 7:10 PM.

The LWVCC is one of the co-sponsors of this program.

## **ONLINE CONSENSUS FOR VOTING SYSTEMS STUDY – JOIN NOW**

For the past 18 months, many local Leagues & their members have been participating in the Massachusetts League's Voting Systems study. Some Leagues, however, are not participating. *(Editor's note: LWVCC is not conducting this study.)*

In order to give every Massachusetts League member the opportunity to participate in the consensus for this study, LWVM has set up an online consensus process. Participants will come to consensus using an email-based discussion group.

We invite you to join the discussion group if your local League is not participating in the study & will not send in a consensus report. You can also join if you're a member-at-large.

To join just send an email message with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to: LWVM-votingsystems-subscribe@yahoo.com

You can also go to <http://www.lwvma.org/votingsystemsstudyinfo.shtml> and submit your email address in the form to join the online consensus group.

To participate in the discussion, please read the study materials. They are available on the LWVM website under the Member Resources section. The address of the relevant page is: <http://www.lwvma.org/votingsystemsstudyinfo.shtml>

Contact Bernadette Buck at [bbuck@lwvma.org](mailto:bbuck@lwvma.org) or at 617-523-2999 if you have any questions or concerns. The online consensus group hopes to complete its report by February 20, so join now!

*LWVM Voting Systems Consensus Committee*

### **STATE REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION**

The Massachusetts LWV is addressing another aspect of voting: redistricting. LWVM and other members of the Redistricting Reform Coalition sponsored legislation to create an independent, nonpartisan Redistricting Commission, bound by strict rules for fairness that would keep politics out of the process and make districts more representative. The LWVM is asking all members to contact their State Senator and Representative to personally ask them to support the Redistricting Reform legislation. If your Senator or Representative is a co-sponsor (Pam Resor and Cory Atkins fall in this category) contact them and thank them for their support. For further information regarding the League's Redistricting initiatives, a list of sponsoring legislators or to join the redistricting committee, contact Cathy Dowd, Redistricting Specialist at 781-433-8677, or [cdowd@lwvma.org](mailto:cdowd@lwvma.org).

## *Domestic Violence Prevention activities in Concord*

*January 2005*

*Nancy James 369-2771*

*Introduction: national and state League chapters have made a significant commitment to domestic violence prevention. Our newsletters will now contain a report each month on the activities within Concord and surrounding towns about this issue. Included in these reports will be the **Network for Women's Lives (Network)**, **Concord-Carlisle Domestic Violence Roundtable (Roundtable)**, **Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)**, and a men's group **Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control**, which meets in Carlisle.*

**Network for Women's Lives** is sponsoring V-DAY Acton-Boxborough with a benefit production of "The Vagina Monologues," performances Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12. Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$10 at Acton-Boxborough Junior High School auditorium. Call 978-263-9050 for tickets, curtain time, and further information. Tickets may also be purchased at [www.networkforwomenslives.org](http://www.networkforwomenslives.org).

**Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)**

**Kiersten Warning** received this year's **Human Rights Council Award**. A celebratory gathering was held December 6 at TriCon church, where Kiersten, in accepting her award, delivered a moving speech about DVVAP's work.

*I urge every League member to look at the material on [www.DVVAP.org](http://www.DVVAP.org) to learn both the symptoms of domestic abuse and the resources available: it will only take a few minutes.*

**Network for Women's Lives** sponsored a dramatic stage presentation of "**Doing the Right Thing**" at Concord's Middle Schools as part of Deanna's Fund program.

**Rachel's Box Project** Rachel's Box in need of materials? Please notify Nancy James 978-369-2771 if you notice boxes in disarray or needing materials.

**Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP)**

Training for new advocates is underway now, January – February, 2005. Want to be a part of this? Call the DVVAP office at 978-318-3421, or [KWarning@concordnet.org](mailto:KWarning@concordnet.org), [DVVAP@concordnet.org](mailto:DVVAP@concordnet.org) for volunteer information. See their web site [www.DVVAP.org](http://www.DVVAP.org).

**Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control** For more information on MADAC's Carlisle monthly meetings, contact [Dunkerst@aol.com](mailto:Dunkerst@aol.com).

By: Nancy P. James, 1/17/05

## Family Homelessness Belongs to Us All

Sunday, January 30, 2005 from 7-8:45 PM

Trinitarian Congregational Church

54 Walden Street, Concord, MA

Women and Children are the fastest growing population living in shelters

- \* Learn about the problem and how you can help...
- \* Hear first-hand from a young, formerly homeless mother
- \* Meet a panel of experts and concerned political representatives
- \* See a short, powerful video
- \* Ask questions, share your ideas, and learn about action steps to take

Meet, greet and snack: 7:00 PM      Program begins promptly at 7:10

Panelists include:

- Miriam Stein, One Family Coordinator, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
- Jessica Marrocco, Communications Coordinator, One Family, Inc., a formerly homeless mother who was a One Family Scholar
- Congressman Marty Meehan (invited)
- State Representative Cory Atkins
- Rev. John Lombard, Trinitarian Congregational Church, Moderator

Sponsored by:

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries and Trinitarian Congregational Church

Cosponsors:

Acton Friends Meeting, Holy Family Parish Out Reach Ministry, Social Action Community at First Parish in Concord, Social Action Committee of Kerem Shalom Congregation, Trinity Episcopal Church, West Concord Union Church, Concord Affordable Housing Committee, Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council, The Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program, League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, The Network for Women's Lives, Concord Academy, CCHS Parents' Association, Nashoba Brooks School

Questions? Call Polly Vanasse at (978) 369-5268 or  
Carl Miller (978)369-3755

In Massachusetts, there are over 20,000 children without permanent homes. Together, we can make a difference!