

BULLETIN

March 2004

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

Volume 9 04-05#4

CALENDAR

MARCH

2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 342 Sudbury Rd. (Anne Hayden)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
13	Sun	LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum (Snow date March 20) CCHS Little Theatre	3:30 PM
14	Mon	Carlisle Town Caucus, Town Hall Clark Room	7:00 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, 1360 Monument St. Concord, MA	9:00 meeting
		Town Meeting Warrant Presentations. Open to members. Brown bag lunch	
10	Sun	LWVM "Making Democracy Work", Faneuil Hall, Boston	
13	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting Discussion & Vote on TM Warrant Articles	9-10:30 AM
		LWVCC Local Program Planning, Brown Bag lunch	10:30 AM
		263 Simon Willard Rd. Concord, MA	
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.*

LWVCC Web Site: <http://lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org>

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	President-Nock@lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org
	Susan Sekuler	(978) 369-8025	President-Sekuler@lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org
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PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Susan Sekuler, Co-Presidents, LWVCC

Dear Leaguers

Though winter is not over for another month things are heating up for the LWV. We have a very active agenda planned and hope you all will find time to participate in at least some of the exciting activities listed below.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

As Concord elections and Town Meeting approach LWVCC is hosting several important events to keep our members informed about the choices we must make.

- The **March 13 Candidates Forum** will give us the opportunity to talk in depth with the three candidates for local office. As all are running unopposed this will be an unusual opportunity to talk with our elected officials, to get to know them and to let them know our opinions on important local issues.
- April will be devoted to planning for both town and League in the coming year. The LWVCC Board will hold two open meetings to learn about the proposed town meeting warrants and to plan our own local program.

On **Wednesday April 6th Board Meeting will start at 9 a.m.** at the home of Nancy Beeuwkes, representatives of several town committees will brief us on town finances, long range planning and several proposed warrants including those for school construction and town projects. On **April 13** join us at the home of Margaret Ziering where **the Board will decide which warrants to support at Town Meeting** and then pick our own League

Program for the coming year. After each of these meetings we will enjoy a social hour and brown bag lunch.

STATE PROGRAMS

• On March 23 LWVCC invites all leaguers to spend **THE DAY ON THE HILL**. The festivities begin at the statehouse where we can mingle with state legislators. Lieutenant Governor Healey, Speaker of the House DiMasi and Secretary of the Commonwealth Galvin will be the morning's featured speakers, after which we will be inviting our State Representative, Cory Atkins, and State Senator, Susan Fargo, to join our delegation for lunch at a Beacon Hill restaurant. If you can join us please see the flyer inside for details.

• On Sunday April 10 the State League is presenting **Making Democracy Work: Lessons Learned From the Presidential Election**. The program will be held from 2-4p.m. at Faneuil Hall and will feature Keynote Speaker, Teresa Heinz Kerry and nationally syndicated columnist, Ellen Goodman. For more information log on to lwvma@lwvma.org.

The Board is your representative body, but we need your input and participation if LWVCC is truly going to represent its members. We know everyone is busy, but we hope you will make time to join us for at least one of these exciting programs.

We look forward to seeing you.

Susan Sekuler and Cindy Nock
LWVCC Co-Presidents

CONCORD TOWN MEETING WARRANT DISCUSSION

All LWVCC members are invited to attend the Board's two April meetings on Town Meeting Warrants. On April 6, 2005, presentations will be made on town finances and long range planning plus proposed warrants dealing with school construction and town projects. Then at the April 13, 2005 meeting the Board will discuss and vote on which warrants to support at Town Meeting. These are open to all LWVCC members. Refreshments will be served.

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Barr & Barbara Lewis

ADDITIONS TO LWVCC MEMBERSHIP LIST

Please add these names onto your membership lists.

Carol Bowen

Ingrid Detweiler

Nancy Hague

Alice Van Deusen

Vivian Walworth

Thank you to these new and renewing members for their support.

We continue to accept members, new and lapsed, even now past the deadline for the 2004 – 2005 membership period. If you join now your membership will be extended to the end of the next period, which will be June 30, 2006. So you will actually be receiving more than 12 months of membership for the regular fee of \$55 for an individual. Just contact Barbara Lewis at 978-287-0049, Membership-Carlisle@lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org, or visit the LWVCC website to print out a membership form.

WEB SERVER STATISTICS FOR “LWVCC.MA.LWVNET.ORG”

The LWVCC website: <http://lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org> went live on February 9, 2004. Since its inception it has been very active. Statistics from November 11, 2004 to March 3, 2005 indicate that we have had over 4,000 successful requests and almost 2,900 unwanted logfile entries or failed requests. In the last seven days surveyed, the website registered 357 successful requests and 348 pages of download. The average number of successful downloads is 35

pages per day for the last four months and 50 per day for the last 7-day period.

The top referrer to our site is the Google search engine. The top browsers are Google, Netscape, and MSIE. The top search words are (in order of frequency) Concord, ma, Massachusetts, Carlisle, and school. Most requested downloads are current flyers, with 340 requests. In addition, 228 copies of the Bulletin, 172 copies of the Observer Report, 126 requests for River Fest information, 45 pages of the member renewal form, and 34 pages of the LWVCC interest survey were also downloaded during the last four months. The busiest day for downloading was February 6, 2005, with 135 requests for pages.

For those who are interested in the derivation of our website name, here's what it represents. Our domain name, LWVCC, stands for League of Women Voters of Concord and Carlisle. Our website is hosted by lwvnet.org, a networking site for the League of Women Voters. The lwvnet.org attached the word “MA” to our domain name to indicate that we are in Massachusetts.

It is easy to search for our website, even if you do not remember the entire URL. Just type in the words lwv+concord+ma in any order in your favorite search engine such as Google (at <http://www.google.com>). Once you have found our website, bookmark it so that you don't have to type our website name or search for us again.

The internet is today's information highway. Judging from the volume of downloads, it appears that our website is doing a good job of providing information to a wide range of users.

Li-Jen Lin, LWVCC Webmaster

LEAGUE EVENTS

**CONCORD CANDIDATES FORUM
SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2005
CCHS LITTLE THEATER
3:30-4:30 P.M.**

(Please note change of place and time.)

All Concord residents are invited to attend the LWVCC's Annual Candidates Forum on Sunday, March 13th at CCHS Little Theater from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

While the three candidates for Town office are unopposed, this is still an important opportunity to hear the incumbents' thoughts on local issues and to ask them questions.

The three candidates running for office are Edward N. (Ned) Perry, Town Moderator, Margaret (Peggy) Briggs, Selectman, and Rebecca (Becky) Shannon, School Committee. The Town Moderator position is a one year term; the other two offices are three year terms.

Nancy Tavernier of Acton's LWV will serve as moderator. Refreshments will be available.

The Town Election is Tuesday, March 29.

Questions? Call Sue Curtin, 978 369-2901. I hope to see you at the Forum

Sue Curtin, LWV Forum organizer

**MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CARE;
TIME FOR A CHANGE**

The League of Women Voters Concord Carlisle will present a **Public Forum on Health Care on Wednesday, March 30, 2005** at the new Alcott School Auditorium, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, at 7:00 p.m. A panel of experts will discuss the current health care crisis in Massachusetts and will present a proposed remedy that would save administrative costs and allow every Massachusetts resident to be guaranteed high quality health care.

The vehicle for this change is the Massachusetts Health Care Trust Bill, a single payer universal health care proposal that will be considered in the legislature, along with a number of other proposals that will be debated during the current legislative session. Dr. Alan Sager, Director of the Health Reform Program at Boston University's School of Public Health and co-author of a study on the economics of a Massachusetts single-payer health system, and Margaret O'Malley, RN, Chair of MASS-CARE, a coalition of over 80 organizations working for universal single-payer health care in Massachusetts, will discuss the reason for change and the benefits that could be gained from acceptance of this bill. State Representative Cory Atkins will discuss the politics of the bill's passage.

Both the Massachusetts LWV and the national LWV support a universal single-payer health care system, following their studies and member consensus on this issue. The Massachusetts LWV and local Leagues support the passage of this bill, and are working to inform the public of its benefits.

Everyone concerned about health care in Massachusetts is invited to attend this forum and participate in a lively question and answer period. Light refreshments will be served.

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

*Paula Vandever
LWCCVHealth Care Specialist*

RIVER STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Debbie Barr & Betsy Sluder, LWVCC Awards Co-Chairs

The League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council are pleased to announce the third Annual River Stewardship Award program. The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers were federally designated in 1999 as 'Wild and Scenic Rivers' because of their 'outstanding remarkable resources.'

The purpose of this award is to honor individuals and government, school/youth/community groups, non-profit institutions, business, and volunteer organizations that have demonstrated concern for the beauty and viability of the rivers as part of the "Wild and Scenic" federal designation. Help us honor unsung heroes and increase public awareness of our beautiful rivers!

A nomination form has been included in this Bulletin mailing. Additional forms are available through the LWVCC, and at the Concord Town House and Concord Public Library or on-line at <http://lwwcc.ma.lwvnet.org>.

Nominations are due by March 31, 2005 and may be submitted by the nominee or by a colleague. A prestigious Selection Committee will choose finalists in April. The award ceremony celebration will take

place Friday, June 10 as part of the festivities planned for Riverfest 2005.

We are especially interested in actions that demonstrate innovative thinking, creative solutions, extra effort, and brave positions that led to the health and preservation of the watershed. Stewardship projects could involve educational efforts such as water quality, recycling or clean up projects, innovative strategies, tools or technologies and advocacy, for example, in opposing wasteful and polluting horticultural practices or damaging development practices.

Award winners for '03 and '04 in Concord-Carlisle included: Greg Peterson/Carlisle Land Trust; Vivian Chaput; CCHS students Emma Schumacher, Elena Coleman, Katie Lebling; Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program; Mill Brook Task Force; Marion Thornton; and Bill Sullivan, with a total of 16 awards given in seven communities.

Thank you for your help in promoting awareness of the importance of our watershed and those who preserve and protect our natural resources. Please feel free to call for more information.

Betsy Sluder, 978 369-1851

Debbie Barr, 978 287-0627

Domestic Violence Prevention activities in Concord

February 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 co-sponsored with Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP) an exhibit titled "Golden Handcuffs" for the Lincoln/Wayland/Sudbury Roundtable. The exhibit may be seen at the Lincoln Library.

Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP) new toll-free assistance number is **888-399-6111**

Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program (DVVAP) and Domestic Violence Services of Central Middlesex are partnering on 2 projects:

Court Intervention Project (CIP), which has trained and graduated 5 volunteers working with the Victim Witness Advocate to assist victims in the Concord District Court.

Lawyer for a Day (LFAD) program connect survivors with attorneys through South Middlesex Legal Services for free legal consultations about probate court.

Call the DVVAP office 978-318-3421 for volunteer information. KWarning@concordnet.org, DVVAP@concordnet.org

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.

Network for Women's Lives continues too meet and plan with local schools for education needs. Anyone wishing to help those efforts, please contact MJ Nichols at MaryJTN@aol.com.

Men Against Domestic Abuse and Control For more information on MADAC's Carlisle monthly meetings, contact Dunkerst@aol.com.

Other events: "Offering Safe Choices" is being offered by the Institute for Health and Recovery in a 2-day conference on April 28-29 at the Worcester Holiday Inn. Cost is \$160. Contact Jan Hanson, CHNA, jhanson800@aol.com.

By: Nancy P. James

3/3/05