

Subject: March 2011 Bulletin
Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011 4:26 PM
From: League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover <league@lww-andovers.org>
Reply-To: league@lww-andovers.org
To: Kerri Ford kerriford@verizon.net
Conversation: March 2011 Bulletin



Bulletin

www.lww-andovers.org

March 2011

Bulletin Editor: Ann Cobligh
 President: Kerri Ford

Vol. 17 No. 3
 Published Monthly September - May

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President's Letter

By Kerri Ford

Town elections are upon us and the League is preparing for candidates' forums in Andover and North Andover. Andover's election will be held March 22 and the candidates' forum is March 12 at 1:30 pm at Memorial Hall Library. North Andover's election will be held March 29 and the candidates' forum is March 9 at 6:45 pm at the North Andover Senior Center. See the articles below for more details. The forums are a great opportunity to hear directly from the candidates in advance of election day.

Town Meetings are also coming up soon. The Andover and North Andover town websites are a good source of information for related logistics. Andover's town website is www.andoverma.gov. North Andover's town website is www.townofnorthandover.com.

As I mentioned in last month's *Bulletin*, over the next couple of months we will be working on the League's program and priorities for the next fiscal year. We will also be developing the slate of nominations for board positions to be voted on at the League's annual meeting in May and the roster of committee heads for the coming year. The League is valued and respected for the work we do to educate voters and increase understanding of public policy issues. However, we rely on volunteers to be able to continue these and other services. Joining the League board is a great way to be involved in your community and to work with some great people. You help plan events, research issues and generally increase your knowledge about our communities. There are positions and projects for every level of time commitment. Please reach out to me or another board member if you'd like to talk about opportunities.

Voter Service Update

by Stefani Traina, VP Voter Service

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Andover Candidates' Forum

Learn more about the candidates for local office at the *League's Candidates' Forum* to be held on **Saturday March 12, 1:30 p.m.**, at Memorial Hall Library. The event provides residents with an opportunity to meet and question the candidates in advance of the **March 22nd** Andover Town Election.

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All candidates for the following offices have been invited: Town Moderator, Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Andover Housing Authority.

Candidates without contested races will have the opportunity to make a statement concerning the duties of their office and to answer questions. Candidates in contested races will make opening and closing statements and answer audience questions. The moderator will be League member Heather McNeil, a resident of North Andover.



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If you wish to submit a question for the candidates, please email it to voterServiceAndover@lwv-andovers.org prior to the start of the event. Questions may also be submitted at the event.

The forum is free and open to the public. The event will be televised live and later rebroadcast on cable television and posted on-line. For more information, contact Stefani Traina at voterServiceAndover@lwv-andovers.org

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North Andover Candidates' Forum

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover will host a Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:45 PM at the North Andover Senior Center, 120 Main Street. This event provides residents with an opportunity to know more about where the candidates for local offices stand on various issues in advance of the March 29th election.

The four candidates for two open seats on the Board of Selectmen include incumbents Tracy Watson and Richard Nardella who are opposed by Joe Edward Smith and Donald Stewart. The three candidates for two open School Committee seats are Brian Gross, Stanley Frank Novak and incumbent Stanley Limpert. There is one open seat for a representative to the Greater Lawrence Regional Technical High School; the two candidates for this seat are Robert Bonenfant and Frank Rossi. Tedd Snell is running unopposed for the one open seat on the North Andover Housing Authority.

All candidates have been invited to make opening statements and respond to questions. Audience questions will not be taken at the event, but you can submit any questions you may have ahead of time to voterservicenandover@lwv-andovers.org. The moderator will be Andover resident and League member Stefani Traina.

The forum is free and open to the public, and will be broadcast live and replayed by North Andover Community Access and Media (NA CAM). For more information, contact Sandy Glead, A/NA LWV - VP, NA, at voterservicenandover@lwv-andovers.org.

Open Lines with Planning Dept:

Upcoming Town Meeting Articles

By Ann Cobleigh

At the invitation of Andover's Director of Planning, members of the League attended a meeting on February 8th with the Planning Department staff: Paul Materrazzo, Lisa Schwarz and Jacki Byerley.

Attending for the League were Kerri Ford, Stefani Traina, Alix Driscoll, and Ann Cobleigh.

In anticipation of Andover's Town Meeting, Paul wished to have an opportunity to provide an overview and opportunity to for questions and League input regarding the Planning Board-sponsored articles and a

couple of other related, privately submitted articles. Some of the articles are straightforward and others lengthy and complex so they cannot be addressed in detail here, however we hope to organize a public forum to address these and other warrant articles prior to Town Meeting.



Member Profile: Stefani Traina

By Ann Cobleigh

This month, I was privileged to spend time with League member Stefani Traina.

Stefani was born and raised in Northern Virginia, in Vienna. She earned her B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia and her Master's degree in management and human services with a concentration in non-profits from Brandeis University's Heller School. She worked at WGBH for 2 1/2 years in the budget office and as a budget manager for The Caption Center (closed captioning) until the birth of her first child, Laura.



Stefani is a joiner with a capital "J". We all know she is a significant contributor to the League but you may not know her volunteer efforts began long ago. When her two children were small she joined The Mother Connection, spent 2 years as a Girl Scout Daisy and Brownie troop leader, joined the PTO and worked on the Cultural Enrichment committee for several years booking performers, authors and others, worked with the town-wide enrichment group, and volunteered in many different capacities in the schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

After discovering the League in 1993 through a friend, she joined in 1994. Her accomplishments and roles in the League are numerous: helping organize the first Community Read-Along and coordinated until 2006, served as School Committee observer, helped lead a local education study in 1997 focused on Andover High School, Bulletin editor 1998-2010, served as Membership Chair, Legislative Action Chair, VP Program & Action, Voter Service Chair, and League President for 2006 - 2010. Stefani has organized the Day on the Hill trip to Boston and served as recorder at unit meetings. She feels particularly

proud of all the different groups with which the League collaborated during her presidency. Other highlights include: *Proposition 2 1/2 Forum* October 2006, formation of the *Greater Haverhill LWV* in 2007, *Immigration Forum* on 11/15/07 and *consensus unit* on 1/12/08, *Sustainability & Natural Resources* committee was active for my entire presidency ultimately becoming the Environmental Action Committee in 2007, *Casino Gambling Forum* February 2008, *Budget Forums* from 2008-2010, *Mid-Year Review*, *Outreach to North Andover* with Sandy Glead and Heather McNeil working to revitalize the League in town, formation of *FACT (Friends of Andover Community Trees)* in 2009.

Through it all, Stefani feels she has learned so much about how all levels of government work and how citizen input can influence decisions. She says, "Dedicated people made it all happen. I think the League provides great value to our community, and it gives interested volunteers a chance to meet each other and work on serious issues while having fun. I've met wonderful people through my involvement in the League and I feel privileged to have worked with so many bright, articulate and passionate people and to have had the opportunity to get to know our town officials and to watch them in action."

Through her extensive service to the League, her knowledge, and unique ability to inspire and encourage others, Stefani is an invaluable resource. All the while we chatted, her drive was evident; she kept bubbling with more ideas and thinking ahead.

Thank you Stefani and more power to you!

MA LWV Conducts Moderator Training

By Ann Cobleigh

Of the many voter services the League provides to promote democracy in action, providing moderators for public forums is a valuable one. The training, skill-development and moderating experiences provided by the League is a unique opportunity.

To that effort, the Massachusetts state league conducted a moderator training session at Wingate Nursing Home, Needham, MA on February 24th. Jo-Ann Berry and our own Stefani Traina



organized and facilitated the 90- minute class. Trainees from Andover/North Andover included Heather McNeil, Ann Cobleigh and Peggy Kruse (training assistant). Other attendees represented leagues from the Needham, Weymouth and Newton. Some attendees had prior moderating experience while others were newcomers. The session of role-play and discussion was fun and interesting and all benefited from each

others' experiences.

Another service the state league provides to local leagues is maintaining a centralized list of available moderators. When local leagues are in need of an event moderator, they can contact the state league office to receive referrals. According to Jo-Ann and Stefani, this list is presently being updated so it will continue to be a valuable tool.



Heather and Ann will quickly have opportunities to utilize their recent training. Ann will moderate for the Andover Senior Center on Friday morning, March 11 and Heather will be moderator for the Andover Candidates' Forum, Saturday, March 12.

Winter/Early Spring Calendar

For the most up to date calendar information visit [our website](#)

March

- 2 Wed Last day to register to vote for Andover town elections
- 9 Wed Last day to register to vote for North Andover town elections
- 9 Wed North Andover Candidates' Forum, 6:45 pm, North Andover Senior Center
- 12 Sat Andover Candidates' Forum, 1:30 pm, Memorial Hall Library
- 14 Mon Combination: Lunch & Conversation and Board Meeting, 11:30 am, Panera, Rtes 114 & 133, North Andover
- 21 Mon April *Bulletin*, article submissions deadline
- 22 Tue Andover Town Elections
- 29 Tue North Andover Town Elections

April

- 7 Thu Last Day to register to vote at Andover Town Meeting
- 13 Wed Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 14 Thu Lunch & Conversation, 11:30 am, Panera, Rtes 114 & 133, North Andover
- 20 Wed May *Bulletin*, article submissions deadline
- 27 Wed Andover Town Meeting, Collins Field House, 7:00 pm
- 28 Thu Andover Town Meeting, Collins Field House, 7:00 pm
- tbd Day on The Hill, Boston
- tbd Andover Town Meeting Preview
- tbd Andover Members' Warrant Unit
- tbd Andover Budget Forum

May

- 2 Mon Andover Town Meeting, Collins Center, 7:00 pm

- 3 Tue Andover Town Meeting, Collins Center, 7:00 pm
- 10 Tue North Andover Town Meeting
- 11 Wed Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 13 Fri Lunch & Conversation, 11:30 am,
Panera, Rts 114 & 133, North Andover
- 20 Fri June *Bulletin*, Article submission deadline
- tbd L WVANA Annual Meeting

Available Board Positions

If you'd like to have a greater impact on democracy in our communities, consider joining the League Board of Directors. The following positions are accepting applications/nominations for the current fiscal year:

Position	Primary Responsibilities
Secretary	Keep board and annual meeting minutes
Membership Chair	Keep membership data, organize membership materials, coordinate new member recruitment
Nominating Chair	Coordinate nominating slate for officers and directors
Legislative Action Chair	Distribute Action Alerts, write monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>
Cable TV - Andover	Coordinate local cable coverage of events
Andover School Committee Observer	Observe school committee meetings and write a summary monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 90-year old national nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of individuals in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, elected officials or political parties at any level of government.

The Andover/North Andover League focuses on topics directly impacting the citizens of our communities.

Membership in the League is open to all women and men.

Membership Form

Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the below form. When you sign up online you will have the option of paying by credit card or PayPal. The League's membership year is July-June.

_____ New _____ Renewal

- _____ \$55 Basic Member
- _____ \$60 Contributing Member
- _____ \$75 Sustaining Member
- _____ \$100+ Patron
- _____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)
- _____ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)
- _____ \$75 Household Dues (2+ persons in same household)

_____ In addition to my membership fee, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____.

_____ Enclosed is a separate check containing my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ payable to the Education Fund, which supports the LWV's educational activities.

Please make checks payable to:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

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Member Information

Name _____
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