



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

# Bulletin

[www.lwv-andovers.org](http://www.lwv-andovers.org)

November 2011

Bulletin Editor: Ann Cobleigh  
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## From Your Steering Committee

By Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina

Dear League Members,

Sincerest Greetings and Happy Holidays to all!

The League of Andover/North Andover is always thankful for the dedicated volunteers and support it has consistently received. This year there is something else which is important to be thankful for. That is "being busy." At this early stage of our 2011-2012 season, it is safe to say that the League is as busy as usual. Though we still weather lingering affects from the spring-time "Ad controversy," we have been able to perform the League work that we all seek to do. The community and town have been working with us and we are hopeful for positive outcomes when it comes time to hold candidate forums.

Being busy also places us in the position of needing additional volunteers to help us balance the load. As we ramp up for the upcoming election year, there will surely be more tasks and exciting projects. Please consider taking a task of any size and let us know if you have any amount of time to share with us. Many thanks in advance.

### This Month's Activities:

First, on October 26, Jean Sideris, Outreach Coordinator for the Union of Concerned Scientists, spoke about "Extreme Weather, Global Warming and Your Health" at The Edgewood Community in North Andover. Jean's presentation to approximately 50-60 residents and League members focused on the interplay of our environment and human health and she fielded many thoughtful questions. We are grateful to Amy Janovsky for coordinating this amazingly successful event.

Second, a well-attended League-sponsored informational forum about the proposed youth center article took place on Nov 2. Residents learned about the current status of the project prior to the special town meeting scheduled for Dec 5th. At the BOS meeting on Nov 14th, they voted to recommend approval, 4-1.

Third, a week after the youth center forum, the Board of Selectmen's Mid-Year

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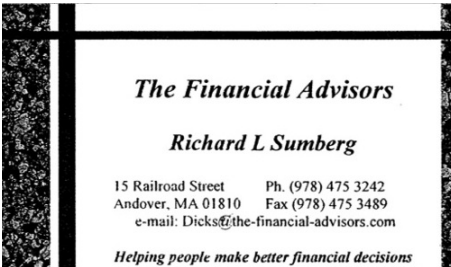
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Review, co-sponsored with the League, was well-attended and addressed the very timely and significant topic of Andover's debt management.

### Upcoming Events "Not to Be Missed!"

The Steering Committee encourages everyone to join us at the November 30th **"Chocolate at the Addison"** membership event. League schedule constraints make it appropriate to hold our Winter/Holiday Dinner after the New Year so this will be our opportunity for members to get together at holiday time. The Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy is a fabulous venue and the evening promises to be a very interesting, cultural and fun event that just needs you to come and enjoy. Please see the article below for more exciting information.

Informational **Forum for the Town Yard Task Force**. Rick Feldman, member of the Town Yard Task Force, is working with the League to organize a public informational forum on Wednesday, Dec 7 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at Memorial Hall Library. We hope all interested members will join us.

### **Andover's Mid-Year Review - Town Debt Overview**

By Stefani Traina

About 30 people gathered at Andover's Memorial Hall Library on Wednesday evening, November 9, to hear Andover's debt advisor, Peter Frazier, Senior VP from First Southwest Company, talk about Andover's AAA bond rating and how Andover's debt practices compare with other similarly sized and similarly rated communities in Massachusetts. The presentation covered myriad topics related to the town's financial health and future. Town boards met with Frazier afterwards for a debt workshop.

This forum can be viewed on local cable as noted below:

[www.andovertv.org](http://www.andovertv.org) under "Video Archive", select "League of Women Voters", then "lww-11/09/2011-Mid-Year Review" which lasts approximate 2 hours and 39 minutes.

Mr. Frazier's presentation slides can be viewed on the town website at: <http://www.andoverma.gov/debtforum.pdf>.

The information can be a very worthwhile way to learn more about future issues and choices our community will face.

### **North Andover Town Meeting Results**

By Heather McNeil

Thank you to all of you who took action and voted at the North Andover Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 15th. All articles passed with the exception of Article 3 regarding the transfer of funds to the stabilization fund. Here are some other details of the voting results.

Article 1 regarding the school construction projects - *Passed unanimously.*

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Article 7 regarding the appointment of members to the Board of Selectmen to fill a vacancy - *Passed with an amendment that requires public comment and input prior to the appointment.* So stay tuned!

Article 9, the local option meals tax - *Passed by 7 votes.*

The town also voted to pay unpaid bills from the prior year, to petition the General Court for an age exemption for a woman to become eligible to be appointed to the position of police officer, among other decisions.

The Town Meeting did not get the chance to discuss or act on moving money into our stabilization fund as the Board of Selectmen recommended favorable action while the Finance Committee was split on its recommendation.

To view the rest of the warrant, go to the town of North Andover's website at <http://www.townofnorthandover.com/Pages/index>.

## Mass. Office of Campaign and Political Finance

By Stefani Traina

Information Resource: The Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance recently issued its [Fall 2011 quarterly newsletter](#). The edition contains news and updates about campaign finance issues and summaries of recent cases and rulings. Click the link, then select "fall11.pdf".

## Chocolate Membership Appreciation Event

**Don't Miss the Fun!**

Date: **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

Time: **7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

Location: **Addison Gallery of American Art**

**180 Main Street, Phillips Academy Campus, Andover, MA**

### "Chocolate at the Addison"

The popular membership appreciation event is back and better than ever! We are excited to be among the very first groups to enjoy this world-class amenity after its extensive renovations and recent re-opening.

Attendees will have a wonderful opportunity to explore the gallery, enjoy conversation with League friends and a chocolate-themed buffet - YUM! This will truly be an event for all your senses. There is no charge to attend and we encourage all members, spouses and their guests to come and enjoy. If you liked last year's holiday dinner, then you won't want to miss this. Invitations have also been extended to Andover's and North Andover's town officials, boards, and committees so we hope to have some relaxed social time with our town leaders.

This special evening includes a presentation by Julie Bernson, Curator of Education, who will speak at 7:30 for approximately 20 minutes and touch on several topics including the Gallery's current exhibition "80@80", and their education and outreach programs, particularly their work in Andover and Lawrence. Thank you to Joan Duff for leading the committee of volunteers and to Ann Cobleigh, REALTOR & Notary with Keller Williams Realty, Andover for generously underwriting the rental cost of the Addison Gallery.

Please note that dessert donations for the chocolate buffet will be graciously accepted. Contact person is Joan Duff, jandjduff@verizon.net or 978-685-3212.

*Membership Renewal:* There will be an opportunity to renew your membership for 2011-2012 if you have not done so already. Thank you.

## **Recycling & Composting Take-Off at Andover High School**

by The AHS Compost and Recycling Team



AHS Volunteers

Hannah Krieger, AHS 2011 student, launched a recycling and composting program in Andover High School's cafeteria in September with great support from the AHS Administration and custodial staff. She worked closely with Candy Dann, a regional recycling coordinator for the state of Massachusetts.

Hannah started the project as her "Senior Exhibition" at Andover High School. The Senior Exhibition program is an opportunity for seniors to use time during the school day to take on specific projects of their own. Many

students take on a project focused on a certain cause they are interested in, attempt to create or build something they are curious about, or simply do some kind of structured research on a specific topic that captures their attention. Hannah decided to start a composting and recycling program in the school's cafeteria.

Hannah spent her entire senior year planning for the program to start this fall, after she would have already left the high school. The first large event that helped to kick off the program took place last April. It was called a "Waste Audit" and had two purposes: to raise awareness and to collect data. The Waste Audit consisted of taking a day's worth of trash, and sorting through it to find out what items could have been recycled or composted that day. The audit took place on the front lawn of AHS and was quite the sight for students to see. The piles of trash naturally inspired students to think about how much waste the cafeteria actually produced each day and how much waste they could be recycling and composting.

This fall, Hannah, League-member Candy Dann, and other members of the "Compost and Recycling Team" prepared the high school for the start of recycling and composting by presenting the project at Freshman Orientation and at each

grade's class meeting during the first week of school. The Compost Team also asked Coach Fazio to energize the students by leading them in a chant "Blue + Gold = Green" at each lunch during the first day of school.

The program started successfully at the beginning of this school year. There are eight waste sorting stations in the cafeteria where they may separate their remaining food and containers into liquids, recyclables, compost, and trash. The Andover Recycling Committee and DPW have supported this program with funding and time. The support from students, staff, and faculty has been tremendous. The early results have been exciting: approximately a 50% diversion, by weight, of the trash!

The key to the program's success so far has been attributed to having volunteers in the cafeteria each day from 10:40 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to monitor the waste stations and answer occasional questions about how to sort all remainders appropriately. The volunteers, known as the Compost Team, receive a handout explaining the composting and recycling process before they arrive to help out at the cafeteria. The handout provides virtually all the information that a volunteer will need. Volunteers have two roles: to provide oversight so that students know it is still important to separate and then, second, to thank the students.

Volunteers also walk around to check on the eight stations and occasionally jiggle the recyclables bin and compress the compostable items and trash within the bins. Hannah and Candy hope to gain support for this program by reaching out to the Andover community through outlets such as this newsletter. This is a great way for the people who volunteer to help students do the right thing, to get an up-close look at the high school, and to support a program that will perhaps be adopted by other Andover schools as time goes on.

Email Candy Dann at [cdann@bedfordma.gov](mailto:cdann@bedfordma.gov) to sign up for one or more days of help. By encouraging people to volunteer for one day, Hannah hopes to find a group of volunteers who can commit to a weekly or monthly lunch block and ensure the continued success of the program.

To learn more please contact:

*Hannah Krieger* AHS '11 - [hannahckrieger@gmail.com](mailto:hannahckrieger@gmail.com)

*Candy Dann*, Mass DEP Program Advisor - [cdann@bedfordma.gov](mailto:cdann@bedfordma.gov)

*Eleanor Storch*, Shawsheen School Parent and Andover Recycling Committee, [eleanorstorch@verizon.net](mailto:eleanorstorch@verizon.net)

## **Report from Region 4 Presidents' Breakfast**

Excerpted from meeting minutes.

Stefani Traina and Ann Cobleigh attended a meeting with other Region 4 Leagues. A/NA, Valerie Osborne of Gr. Haverhill and Carole Pelchat of Gr. Haverhill and LWVMA board, Carin Kale of H/W, Lee Mondale of Marblehead, Ann Gyles of T/B/M, Muriel Zaginailoff of LWVMA, and Ruth Race. Unfortunately representatives from Cape Ann and Swampscott could not be with us that day.

Reminder about the LVWMA Presidents' Breakfast on October 29 at the Needham Historical Society.

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National Education Study (LWVUS) -- Marblehead and Hamilton/Wenham, the two leagues in our region participating in the study, expressed concern about the types of questions for consensus in the study. It is felt there is an overwhelming amount to be discussed and difficult at that, questioning the efficacy of doing national studies and are national studies fast tracked too much, making it very difficult for locals to engage in. All hoped that our opinions could be conveyed to national, via this report perhaps.

Voters Service -- Our group was most enthusiastic about the LWVMA's idea to coordinate a statewide high school voter registration campaign. In Beverly, BevCam (local cable access) to help produce television interviews for the fall election. Legislative News -- Carole brought us up-to-date on the casino issue, which seems to be a foregone conclusion, with the "happy hour" amendment probably turned down. Location of casinos is still in flux. Also, it was hoped that the revised bottle bill might still pass.

Review of fall-out from the negative ads on Scott Brown last spring -- Most of the group felt that their locals were surviving reasonably well after the problem. Some have lost members, but none reported difficulties with town/city relations. Other - There possibly may be a need for League action in Lawrence if there were difficulties with an outside group wanting to film voters at entrances and exits of the polls. However, we were not notified.

## **National League - LWVUS Activities**

### **LWV Calls on President to Make Nominations to the FEC (Federal Election Commission)**

In a letter and press conference, the League and coalition partners called for changes in the dysfunctional Federal Election Commission.

November 3, 2011

Statement by Lloyd Leonard, Director of Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The League of Women Voters has been working for fair and open elections for many decades. We have supported campaign finance reforms at the national level and in the states in order to protect our democracy from corruption and to ensure that the voices of regular voters can be heard.

This year, we see incredible dangers ahead. Special interests are spending huge sums of money to influence the upcoming elections and to influence the public officials that will be chosen in those elections. This special interest spending promises to be of historic proportions - and they are not spending this money out of the goodness of their hearts. Campaign spending is an investment for special interests and their lobbyists. They will expect a return on that investment. [Click here for more...](#)

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Americans for Campaign Reform - Campaign Legal Center- Common Cause - CREW - Democracy 21 - League of Women Voters - Public Citizen - U.S. PIRG

November 3, 2011

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*Our organizations are writing to you once again to express our grave concerns about the extraordinary failure of the Federal Election Commission to properly enforce and interpret the nation's campaign finance laws, and about your inaction to address this very damaging situation.*

*The organizations include Americans for Campaign Reform, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.*

*The FEC is widely recognized as a failed, dysfunctional enforcement agency and has itself become a national campaign finance scandal. The refusal of the FEC to properly enforce the campaign finance laws is well known to candidates and political operatives. This has created a "do-anything-you-want approach" to complying with the country's campaign finance law. [Click here for more...](#)*

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## November 2, 2011 Letter to the U.S. Senate

*In her letter, Elisabeth MacNamara, President, League of Women Voters the Members of the U.S. Senate from urging them to oppose the termination of the Election Assistance Commission.*

*The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose efforts to terminate the Election Assistance Commission as part of the appropriations process. Instead of eliminating the EAC, we believe that Congress should strengthen the commission and expand its responsibilities. The League believes that elections are fundamental to a functioning democracy and that every effort should be made to elevate their administration to the highest importance.*

[Click here for more...](#)

## Fall 2011 Calendar

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

### Nov

30 Wed Membership Event: "*Chocolate at The Addison*"

Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy, 180 Main St, Andover

## Dec

- 5 Mon Special Town Meeting
- 7 Wed Informational Forum: Andover's Town Yard Task Force  
Memorial Hall Library
- 8 Thu Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, 6 Roulston Cir, Andover  
Open to all members

## Jan

- tba Winter Members' Dinner  
Location TBA

## 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**

Clerk	Keep board and annual meeting minutes
Legislative Action Chair	Distribute Action Alerts, write monthly column for the <i>Bulletin</i>
Bulletin Editor distribute	Solicit and/or write articles, use Constant Contact to via email.
Cable TV - Andover	Coordinate local cable coverage of events
Andover School Committee Observer	Observe school committee meetings and write a summary for the League Bulletin

## About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 91-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.

League membership is open to all citizens, both women and men.

## Membership Form

Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the form below. 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:  
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#### Member Information

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