



Amherst League of Women Voters Bulletin

January 2013 Vol. LXIV– No 5



January 2013 Calendar

Tuesday, January 15, Program Planning Meeting,
12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM, Jones Library (brown bag lunch - see
page 3) Snow date: Wednesday, January 16, 1:00 - 3:00 PM,
Jones Library

Thursday, January 17, Board Meeting,
6:45 PM, Dick Kofler's @ 16 McIntosh Drive, Amherst

Monday, January 21, Book Discussion Group,
In the Garden of the Beasts by Erik Larson, 3:00 PM, @ Phyllis
Lehrer's home, 197 Pondview Drive, Amherst

Saturday, February 9, LWV Birthday Luncheon,
Guest Speaker, Caroline "Biddy" Martin, President of Amherst
College, 12:30 PM, The Ginger Garden

Welcome New Member!

Michael Gilbert
38 Autumn Lane
Amherst, MA 0102
413-253-2786



LWVA
253-0633

First Vice
Presidents
Elaine Bowditch
256-0420
Adrienne Terrizzi
253-5039

2nd Vice President
Peggy Roberts
549-1575

Secretary
Rachel Mustin
253-5779

Co-Treasurers
Joan Rabin
253-3587
Janice Ratner
253-7214

Membership
Richard Kofler
256-3517

Bulletin Editor
Cynthia Brubaker
253-6679
Distribution
Mira Menon
256-8391

Happy New Year

From Peggy Roberts for the Executive Committee



Dear Members,

As the new year arrives, Rebecca Fricke, who has served us so well as our League president, begins her new job as District Aide to State Representative Ellen Story. We thank her for her service and while we will miss her on the board, it's good to know that one of our members will be working actively in state government. We are very proud of you, Rebecca!

Meanwhile, the work of the president will be carried on by Executive Committee members First Vice Presidents Adrienne Terrizzi and Elaine Bowditch, Co-Treasurer Joan Rabin, Local Action Chair Martha Hanner, and Peggy Roberts as Second Vice President. You may contact any of us about questions or concerns. We will be meeting each month before the board meetings.

Plans for exciting programs are already in place for the rest of this year. Refer to the articles on each within this Bulletin for specific information. The program planning meeting on January 15 will be your chance to suggest topics for state and local studies, so start thinking about what you would like to work on -- important subjects that the League could focus on for the next 2 years. In February, Caroline 'Biddy' Martin, President of Amherst College, will speak at the League birthday luncheon, and later in the month Susan Waite, Amherst Recycling Coordinator, will talk to us about what may happen when the transfer station at the landfill closes. We will celebrate International Women's Day in March by recognizing area women chosen from nominations submitted by LWV members. Look for nomination forms on page 4. There's lots more coming this spring, so watch for the Bulletin each month.

Stay warm and mark your calendar for League events where you always learn something and have interesting discussions.

Peggy



LWVA Program Planning Meeting



Tuesday, January 15, 12:00-1:30pm, Amherst Room, Jones Library

Our LWV State League seeks feedback every two years from local Leagues to help guide biennial program and action activities at the State Level. An LWVA membership meeting for state program planning, 2012-2015, has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 12:00-1:30pm, Amherst Room, Jones Library (Snow date: Wednesday, January 16, 1:00-3:00pm).

LWVMA has called for our input in the following areas: 1) new studies, 2) restudies or update of current positions, and 3) action issues on existing state or national positions, particularly relative to legislative advocacy. Members unable to attend the planning meeting are encouraged to participate by filling in State Program Planning Recommendation Form, which requires a brief description of the scope and intent of the issue you recommend, why it is necessary, and your willingness to participate. The two-page form is available at lwmma@lwmma.org. Please consider submitting your recommendations to amterrizzi@gmail.com by January 13th.

More on Program Planning -

FT\$ - Proposed State Study

The LWVA Follow the Money (FT\$) Group plans to suggest a new state study - *Massachusetts after Citizens United – So what do we do now?* - to examine whether existing LWV positions are adequate to deal with the implications for Massachusetts electoral processes of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the case of *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*. Possible study results are:

- a new state position to address new state issues
- positioning LWVMA to participate in the discussion likely to take place at the 2014 LWVUS Convention.

Great Idea? Come to the Program Planning meeting on January 15th to add your support. Not so great? Come, join the discussion, and see if we can convince you!

Local Program Planning

We will also consider local studies, new and continuation of ones we have been working on, e.g., Energy. Please bring your ideas for any local issues you would like our League to study in the coming year.



Call for Nominations

LWVA to Celebrate International Women's Day – March 8th, 2013, Amherst Woman's Club, 7:00pm

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on the same day every year, in every country of the world. Born of activism in 1910, some countries take the day off; others mark the day by protesting for equal access, equal rights and gender equality. LWVA will participate in this global day of celebration for the first time this year by honoring women in our community whose accomplishments and meaningful contributions have enriched their lives, their families and their communities, but who may never have received honors, awards or been publicly acknowledged.

Through a membership nomination process, with LWVA members nominating non-members who live in the Amherst area but whose work need not be local, women will be selected for their contributions to their families and communities and invited to share their experiences at our IWD celebration on Friday, March 8th at the Amherst Woman's Club.

Please consider friends, colleagues and neighbors meeting these criteria and send in the nomination form(s) **no later than February 19th**. Mail to LWVA, International Women's Day, PO Box 2372, Amherst, 01004 or via email to amterrizzi@gmail.com. An LWVA Committee will process the nomination forms and determine the honorees.

NOMINATION FORM (Deadline February 19, 2013).

Nominee's Name:



Reasons for Nomination, specifically as possible, using additional space as necessary.

Person Nominating & Contact Information:

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you from Adele Gladstone-Gilbert to Cindy Asebrook, Louise Dubinsky, Katherine Campbell, Jane Harrington, Elaine Mange, Jeanne Potash, and Janice Ratner for making quick work of preparing the annual mailing for the Fall Finance Drive. They were a very efficient crew!

Membership Report

The deadline for membership renewal in the Amherst League of Women Voters has just passed. Approximately 50 (out of 205) members have not yet renewed their membership for 2013. If you are among them, please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible. If you do not have the membership renewal form you can download the form from the Amherst League website at: <http://www.lwvamherst.org/node/6>, or you can call Dick Kofler at 256-3517 and he will get one to you. The address to which the form and your renewal check should be sent is shown on the form itself.

Membership in the League allows you to participate in many ways to an array of important issues locally as well as nationally. In addition to the ongoing efforts to register voters and educate them on civic issues, the Amherst League has ongoing studies in health care, the influence of money in politics, energy, emergency preparedness, local action, and more. Even if you are unable to participate actively, we look forward to your continued membership as a show of support for the work of our local League.

December Holiday Party at Martha Hanner's



Katie Van Geel, Bonnie MacCracken and Phyllis Lehrer



Host Martha Hanner, Nancy Grossman and Alice Swift



Elaine Bowditch, Janice Ratner, Jackie Wolf, Deanna Pearlstein and Peggy Roberts

Hampshire Restorative Justice Partnership Community Program



After a little more than a year after Lucinda Brown, of the Greenfield District Court Restorative Probation Program, spoke at a LWVA meeting, we finally have organized a functioning group in Hampshire County starting with Amherst.

Our accomplishments so far include the establishment of a Steering Committee that will serve in the capacity of “gatekeeper” replicating the role of Lucinda since she will not be participating with us. Its purpose will be to deal with issues passed on to us by the Boards that are working directly with probationers. If the SC cannot resolve the issue, it will be passed on to the Probation Department.

Two Boards have been established. One will meet on the first Wednesday of each month; the other on the first Thursday of each month. In attendance at each meeting, in addition to the six Board members, will be Elissa Berlinger, an intern working with Lucinda, and a probation officer. I am very excited and honored to report that the Board on which I serve has chosen me as the Facilitator of that group. We have had two organizational meetings and look forward to receiving our first cases in February, 2013.

Even though fourteen months appear like a long time to get something started, (the wheels of justice move slowly), the momentum initiated by the LWV meeting played a large role in making this happen. Thank you all for your support.

Elaine Bowditch



Amherst Media announces that Bill Newman's November 1st presentation on “Democracy in the Balance” will be available, along with our opening speaker John Bonifaz on “We the People or We the Corporations”, for on-line viewing at www.amherstmedia.org/series under the “Through the League Lens” drop-down menu.

From LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara



December 20, 2012

Dear League Members,

We are all deeply distressed by the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut and share in the country's grief. As leaders in your community, remember that the League of Women Voters is singularly well suited to gather disparate members of the community together to discuss difficult issues and work to find common ground to solve problems. At the same time, there will be opportunities to take action through legislation at the state and federal levels. Members of the U.S. House and Senate have already signaled their intent to introduce legislation to reinstate the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines when the 113th Congress meets in January and President Obama has asked Vice-President Biden to oversee a task force that will develop new gun control and mental health policies. The Task Force report is expected in January.

Since 1990, the League of Women Voters has had a position to protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons, and we supported the original ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines when it was passed in 1994. The League's health care position also states that every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of quality care that includes, among other things, mental health care.

As the League has done throughout our history, we know that real solutions to serious problems are not easily achieved, but the combination of our thoughtful understanding of these issues combined with our respected reputation to facilitate challenging discussions among people in our communities and with policy makers, puts us in a place of offering the best of what we are to a nation yearning for solutions. We will be looking for opportunities to share the League's views as this very complex debate progresses. In the meantime, you can reach out to your representatives when they are home to express the League's view that there is no role for assault weapons or high-capacity magazines in civilized society.

Elisabeth



League of Women Voters of Amherst Celebrates



**International Women's Day
March 8, 2013**

Call for Nominations to honor women in our community (see page 4). Fill in and return to LWVA, International Women's Day, PO Box 2372, Amherst, 01004 or via email to amterrizzi@gmail.com. Deadline : February 19, 2013.

League Web Sites

LWVA: www.lwvamherst.org

LWVM: www.lwvma.org

LWVUS: www.lwv.org

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