

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

January 2007

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org](http://www.lwvcc.ma.lwvnet.org)

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

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## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

3	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 282 East Riding Land, Carlisle (Barbara Lewis)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
17	Wed	<b>LWVCC Member Breakfast, Colonial Inn</b>	9:00 AM
18	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:30 AM
20	Sat	<b>LWVCC Forum on Municipal Policy – Amherst, MA</b>	<b>9:00 AM-12:30 PM</b>
24	Wed	<b>LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Main Library</b>	<b>10:00-11:30 AM</b>
27	Sat	<b>LWVCC Forum on Municipal Policy – Boston</b>	<b>9:00 AM-2:15 PM</b>
28	Sun	CCAdult Ed Program: Family Homelessness Program Trinity Church, 81 Elm St, Concord	7:00-8:45 PM
29	Mon	Concord Town Caucus, Alcott School Auditorium	7:30 PM
31	Wed	LWVCC ESC (Ruth Lauer)	1:30 PM

### FEBRUARY

7	Wed	<b>Open LWVCC Board Meeting &amp; State Program Planning</b> <b>41 Canterbury Ct. (Cindy Nock)</b>	<b>9:00 coffee, 9:30 bd mtg</b> <b>10:30 State Program Planning</b>
15	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:30 AM
28	Wed	LWVCC ESC (Tish Richardson)	1:30 PM

### MARCH

6	Tues	Carlisle Town Warrant Closes	
7	Wed	<b>Open LWVCC Board Meeting &amp; Local Program Planning</b> <b>229 Musketaquid Rd. (Erica Morrison)</b>	<b>9:00 Coffee, 9:30 bd mtg</b> <b>10:30 AM Local Program Planning</b>
12	Mon	Carlisle Town Caucus	
21	Wed	<b>LWVCC Program: Town, Schools, Money</b>	
22	Thurs	LWVCC Observer Corps, Everett Garden	9:30 AM
25	Sun	<b>LWVCC Concord Candidates Forum</b>	<b>3:00-5:00 PM (tent time)</b>

### APRIL

4	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 290 Rutland St., Carlisle (Lauren Bakewell)	9:00 coffee, 9:30 mtg
10	Tues	LWVCC Day On The Hill: "The Poorest Among Us"	
23-25		Concord Town Meeting	
30	Mon	Concord Town Meeting	
30	Mon	Carlisle Town Meeting	

### MAY

1	Tues	Concord Town Meeting	
2	Wed	LWVCC Board Meeting, 1643 Monument St. (Tish Richardson)	9 coffee, 9:30 meeting
23	Wed	<b>LWVCC Annual Meeting, Place TBA</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board and Observer Corps meetings.  
Please contact Nancy Beeuwkes if you would like to attend any of them.*

# EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Beeuwkes & Ruth Lauer, ESC Co-Chairs

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Dear All,

It's that time again! The New Year, when we indulge ourselves in periods of reflection and good intentions. This time, make it real; make a difference. Take Action. There are certainly issues, whether local or national, short or long-term, affecting children, the elderly, women, family, the environment, health care, fiscal policy, and many others, up to and including the well-being of Democracy itself, which would benefit from *your* attention. No one else can do it for you or in just the same way. Don't get angry, get involved. Don't take umbrage, take action.

Think of this resolution like health and wellness -- a lifestyle choice which enables you to continue even after disappointment or short-term failure -- as opposed to that old-fashioned diet concept which you were morally obligated to abandon if you didn't get instant results.

Support over the long-term is critical to the success of any project; so find a buddy who shares your interest. Do you have a tennis or walking partner with whom you have spent daily or weekly time pursuing your goal for the past five or even ten years? Why not an action partner with whom you can do the same with at least as much passion? That person could be a League Member, a neighbor, or in the global village we find ourselves, someone on the internet.

Consider the League of Women Voters as an important resource. The League supports and encourages citizens to take action, whether that is by signing our names to petitions and letters, wearing a badge, carrying a poster, or running for office. Every *Bulletin* seems to have something which impels us to act -- state, national, and local issues on which our opinions are important. The League's study programs and consensus mechanisms exist to help us make our opinions more informed. But we must not stop there; we must take action on information to influence the people making the decisions or to become the person making the decision.

Strive to be the person who makes a difference, one postage stamp or one phone call at a time. Those days when League Members and other citizens had unlimited time and energy to offer are only a myth! No longer are we asked to save the world before

lunch. Use all the resources at your disposal. You could ensure that other League Members are informed about your issue. You could alert Members to upcoming legislation or calls to action. You could lead a study. You could provide a living room and goodies for a meeting. You could help televise a meeting. You could stuff envelopes. You could get your kids to help! You could volunteer for a Carlisle or Concord Town Committee (see the Town website for committees with vacancies.).

January means that it is time for the Concord Town Caucus, that occasion when we gather with our neighbors to learn more about the candidates who will step forward to represent us in local government. This year the Caucus will occur at Alcott School at 7:30PM on January 29<sup>th</sup>. There are two openings on the Board of Selectmen, and one each on the School Committee, Housing Authority and Town Moderator.

Mark your calendar for the Local Election now -- March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Carlisle neighbors will meet March 12 for similar decisions.

Mark your calendars for the long-awaited LWVM Fiscal Policy Meeting on the sources and uses of municipal finance on January 27 at UMASS Boston. This meeting is the really big news that developed out of several years of study. I hope to see you there. See more info elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

Stay tuned for the LWV-CC Warrant Review. The 2007 Warrant has closed and has 47 Articles for the deliberation of Concord Town Meeting. Jerry Lauderdale and a hardy team of Observers will study the strong pro and con arguments for each Article to prepare us for Town Meeting in April.

Happy New Year Members! I look forward to seeing your smiling faces as we go about the everyday business of democracy in our two towns.

Yours in Leaguings,

Ruth C. Lauer for the ESC

# MEMBERS NEWS

Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair

## LWVCC ANNUAL WINTER MEMBERS BREAKFAST

Wed, January 17, 2006 9:00-11:00 AM  
Colonial Inn, Concord Center

Please join us as we reclaim a cherished tradition of gathering for a social breakfast to welcome the New Year at the Colonial Inn. Enjoy a choice of plated breakfast accompanied by juice, breads and coffee or tea for \$10, to be paid upon arrival. Get to know fellow League members better, and share information on what you've been up to League-wise and otherwise. It is always great to catch up on what each of us has been up to.

To register, call Barbara Lewis (978-287-0049) or drop an email to [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net) to that we know what numbers to plan for. Hope to see many of you there!

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have had a successful membership renewal period, which is drawing to a close. The goal will be to finalize the membership list as of January 31 then compile the LWVCC Membership Directory as quickly as possible so that all members will receive theirs sometime in mid-February. If you have any corrections you would like to see incorporated into the 2007 edition (like the addition of your email address) just send your request to [blglewis@comcast.net](mailto:blglewis@comcast.net) before the end of January.

*Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair*

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

After last year's Hurricane Katrina disaster in the Louisiana/Mississippi/Alabama area, LWVCC member **Christy Barbee** was moved to do something to help people who were trying to put their lives back together again in these disaster areas. She created **Citizen Action Team (CAT)**, a locally based group of volunteers who operate a national database ([www.reliefdatabase.org](http://www.reliefdatabase.org)) to help match donations to needs. CAT also has an established low-cost shipping system for relief goods.

If you would like to find out more about what this energetic and effective organization does and/or would like to get involved with them, contact Christy Barbee at 978-369-4343.

As Ruth Lauer's states in her ESC message in this Bulletin, "This time, make it real: make a difference. Take Action. There are certainly issues...which would benefit from *your* attention. No one else can do it for you or in just the same way. Don't get angry, get involved. Don't take umbrage, take action."

We, your LWVCC board, applaud Christy's actions in this area and encourage all of our members to do likewise with your skills in the areas/with the issues that of importance to each one of you.

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 citizen in government.

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**LWVCC BOOK GROUP JANUARY  
SELECTION: *DESERT QUEEN***

The LWVCC Book Group will meet on January 24, 2007, from 10:00-11:30 AM at the Trustees Room in the Concord Main Library on Sudbury Road in Concord Center. The selection for this month is *Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell: Adventurer, Advisor to Kings, Ally of Lawrence of Arabia* by Janet Wallach.

This is a biography of a fascinating English woman who was intricately involved in the development of the Middle East from a vast territory ruled by nomadic tribes and colonial powers to the creation of self-governing countries. In particular, she was a major role-player in the creation of the country of Iraq. The book provides a great deal of background history and knowledge that enables the reader to better understand what is now going on in the Middle East.

The LWVCC Book Group is open to all League members and their friends. One does not need to sign up, you can just show up ready to discuss the book and the issues that it highlights.

*Anne Hayden, Book Group Chair*

**LWVMASS FORUMS ON  
MUNICIPAL FINANCE**

Have you wished you understood more about the town budget or Chapter 70? The Fiscal Policy Update Study Committee has organized two educational forums that will cover basic topics ranging from Education Reform to Assessments, Prop 21/2 and the Cherry Sheet concentrating on the relationship between the state and local municipalities. **There will be a forum in Amherst on Saturday, January 20, and in Boston on Saturday, January 27.**

These forums will enhance the understanding of local finance and is appropriate for all levels. The format will consist of general sessions at the beginning and end, with smaller workshops on the various topics in between, through which all attendees will rotate by the end of the forum.

The forum will serve as general preparation for the upcoming local League study on finances and local services due to begin in February 2007. (Local Leagues should plan to hold consensus meetings on Fiscal Policy in the Fall 2007.)

All Leagues are encouraged to send representatives to get a “jump start” on fiscal policy background. Our goal is to make this fun and interesting for all! You may invite guests, especially potential League members interested in Fiscal Policy.

**Please RSVP to State League Office (617-523-2999 | [lwmma@lwmma.org](mailto:lwmma@lwmma.org)) with the number of attendees and which forum you will attend.** The deadline to RSVP for the Amherst forum is January 15 and for the Boston forum the deadline is January 22.

For more information, please contact Fiscal Policy Update Committee Co-Chairs Kathy Leonardson [kleonardson@lwmma.org](mailto:kleonardson@lwmma.org) or Zaxaro Bennett [zbennett@lwmma.org](mailto:zbennett@lwmma.org) or call the State League office 617-523-2999.

## **STATE PROGRAM PLANNING**

As 2007 is a year for the LWVM State Convention, it is time to consider our recommendations for State program for the next biennium.

The League of Women Voters is not only one of the most respected of public policy organizations, it is also unique in the fact that its program and positions on issues are determined by the membership. "Program" in League-speak does not simply mean the agenda of a particular meeting, rather it is the keystone of the League organization, the basis for both education and action efforts.

League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and actions. League positions on issues are developed by studying the issue in depth and reaching a consensus at the grassroots level. Based on these positions, the League actively pursues legislative action. In the past year particular attention has been paid to Education Financing, Health Care, Voting Rights, and Environmental issues.

At our League's State Program Planning meeting, we will be asked to review the present program of the LWVM (available at the LWVM website [lwvma@lwvma.org](mailto:lwvma@lwvma.org) - paper copies will be available at the meeting) and to make suggestions for additions, changes, or even deletions.

Our suggestions will be put together with those of other Leagues and recommendations will be made to the State Board. The final decision on State program will be made by the delegates to the convention which will take place on June 1 and 2, 2007.

In making suggestions on League program, we will need to consider the ongoing studies and the resources of the League.

Our State Program Planning meeting will be at 10:30AM Wednesday Feb. 7 at the home of Cindy Nock, 41 Canterbury Court, Carlisle. There will be an abbreviated Board meeting at 9:30 to which all members are welcome and Program planning will follow immediately. Bring a brown bag lunch, beverages etc will be served. A similar format is planned for Local Program Planning in March.

Please be there.

*Louise Haldemann, LWVCC Board*

**UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE -  
FOR REAL**

From Marcia Angell, M.D., At the LWV of  
Sudbury Speech 11/12/06

Dr. Angell is a Senior Lecturer, Department  
of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
and Former Editor-in-Chief, New England  
Journal of Medicine.

The American health care system spends  
about 2 trillion dollars on health care, over  
16% of our GDP. That is 2 ½ times as much  
spent for health care in the U.S. as the  
median for all the OECD countries, the  
thirty most developed countries in the world,  
adjusted for cost of living. Yet regarding  
our life expectancy, infant mortality and  
immunization rates we rank near the bottom  
of this group.

We are the only market-based health care  
system among these advanced countries.  
But rather than a system, we are a hodge-  
podge of different business arrangements  
that exist mostly independently from one  
another. Our overhead and profits now  
account for about a third of health  
expenditures. Cutting that in half would  
save nearly \$350 billion—more than enough  
to cover the uninsured.

The way to solve this problem is with a  
single-payer system, like virtually every  
other advanced country has. This would be  
tantamount to extending Medicare to the  
entire population. It is by far the most  
efficient part of our system, with overhead  
costs of less than 4 percent. Though  
Medicare is not perfect, it's the most popular  
part of the U.S. health care system. Like  
education, clean water and air, equal justice,  
and protection from crime, health care  
should be a public responsibility. We  
should provide these essential services to all  
Americans.

Submitted by Paula Vandever, Health Care  
Portfolio. For further information contact  
VandeverP@aol.com.

**FAMILY HOMELESSNESS  
PREVENTION PROGRAM  
CC ADULT EDUCATION FORUM**

The third annual Family Homelessness  
Forum will be held at the Trinity Church, 81  
Elm St, Concord, on Sunday, January 28,  
2006 from 7:00-8:45 PM.

Focus: Overlooked Strategies to End Family  
Homelessness: What Works & Why and  
First-Hand Accounts.

Panelists include two mothers who have  
benefited from adult basic education (ABE)  
programs, directors of two community  
college ABE and transition to work  
programs, and a leading state house  
advocate for adequate funding of adult  
education programs. The forum moderator  
will be Miriam Stein, MSW, advocacy  
trainer and family homelessness consultant  
to Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding  
of the causes and remedies of family  
homelessness and of actions individuals can  
take that can have a powerful impact toward  
this end. This forum is presented by the  
Concord Acton Family Homelessness  
Advocacy Network in conjunction with  
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.