



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

February 2010

LWVH Board 2009 - 2011

Co-Presidents:

Deborah Courteau &
Lynn Cotter

VP Voter Education/

Service: Kathleen Nugent

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Treasurer: Marisa Costello

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Schembri

Publicity: Chris Wilk

Web Site/Newsletter:
Emily Mondon

Fundraising Chair:
Kim Letts

School Liaison: Kate Boland

Advisor: Julie Strehle

Upcoming Events

LWVH Board Meeting

Wed., Feb. 17 @ 7:30 p.m.
Home of Lynn C.
30 Ward Street, Hingham

"State of the State"

Wed., Mar. 10 @ 7:00 p.m.
Home of Marisa C.
43 Woodlock Road, Hingham

Candidates Night

Wed., April 7 (tentative)
Location TBD

Co-President's Letter

Wow, what a year it has been! And we are already halfway through the year. Our League has been quite busy on a number of new initiatives over the last several months.

In October, we held our 4th annual Wine & Cheese gathering at the home of LWVH board member, Kate Boland, who graciously offered up her home to host this fun event. The evening was to welcome new members and others interested in learning more about the League and what we do. Thank you to all those on the Board who brought in munchies and desserts and a huge thank you to Kate Boland for allowing us to use her lovely home.

As many of you are aware, our Local Program this past year was to continue with the study on Hingham's Town Meeting. After the committee presented and updated LWVH members on their research in September, they took suggestions and came up with discussion points for Consensus. After a thorough and productive discussion, consensus was met and provided the foundation for our Position Statement for Town Meeting. At the last Board Meeting, the LWVH Board

adopted the Position Statement by a unanimous vote, which will now allow the Town Meeting Study Committee to spring into action. A copy of the final Position Statement is included in this newsletter. A lot of work has been put into this study and undertaking, so a big thank you to Kate Boland, Chair of the Committee and all of the Committee Members who put in countless hours of meetings as well as research. They include Eva Marx, Julie Strehle, Victoria Milano, Connie Coleman, and Liza O'Reilly. Of course, now the fun starts! If anyone is interested in helping out or joining the Committee, there is much more work to be done.

On January 24, the LWVH hosted the workshop, "How to Run for Local Public Office". We had a good turnout, with a wonderful panel of speakers consisting of Hingham town officials - Bruce Rubuffo, Selectman, Scott Bosworth, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, Laura Marwill, Advisory Committee Member and Eileen McCracken, Hingham Town Clerk. Moderating the session was our own Kathleen Nugent, VP Voter Education & Service, who did a fabulous job in keeping the discussions interesting, informative and tactful. Each of

the speakers spoke about their personal reasons and experiences in either running for public office or being appointed to public office. Who knows, maybe it will inspire others to consider volunteering their time for public service! Thank you to Kathleen Nugent, who chaired and coordinated this event and to Marisa Costello and Chris Wilk for contributing their time and effort as well. Great job!

Our next big event is the annual State of the State on March 10, 7:00pm at Marisa Costello's house - 43 Woodlock Road. Once again, Senator Hedlund and Representative Bradley will speak about current affairs around the south shore and on Beacon Hill. This is always a great event that shouldn't be missed!

Candidates Night is scheduled tentatively for Wednesday, April 7 at Hingham Town Hall. More details to follow as we get closer to the date. Since this is one of the League's signature events, we will need a few volunteers to help out that night. If interested, please email Chris Wilk at bandcwilk@comcast.net. Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Lynn

Don't Just Sit There... Run!

Highlights from Our January 24th Forum, "How to Run for Public Office"

The League of Women Voters of Hingham sponsored and hosted a workshop for the public, "How to Run for Local Public Office". Held on Sunday, January 24 at the Hingham Public Library, we had a good turnout and a great panel discussion. Coordinating and moderating the event was Kathleen Nugent, VP Voter Education & Service for LWVH. Panelists included Eileen McCracken, Town Clerk, Scott Bosworth, Chairman, Recreation Commission, Laura Marwill, Advisory Committee, and Bruce Rubuffo, Selectman. Each speaker first spoke about their personal reasons for becoming a public official and their experiences.

Ms. McCracken (Town Clerk) mentioned that she was in the Treasure/Collectors office for 10 years when the Town Clerk's position became available and the sitting Town Clerk declined to run for reelection. Her feeling at the time was "what's the worst that can happen? So you might lose". At the time, she asked the advice of many people - the current Town Clerk, the Treasurer, and her husband. She ran against two other candidates, spent very little money, and won. In the end, she learned that you gain a lot of respect from people just for trying.

Mr. Bosworth (Recreation Commission) was first exposed to local politics while going door-to-door with his father for an attorney general campaign as a fifth grader. Later, he managed and ran a campaign for a Massachusetts State Representative. When he himself thought about public service or getting involved in the town of Hingham, he asked himself, "Do I have anything to offer?" and apparently he did. He ended up being appointed to the Advisory Committee. After his term was up, he was then appointed by the Selectmen to fill an interim position in the Recreation Commission in which afterwards, he decided to run for the elected Recreation Commission seat.

In his words, he mentioned that you don't need to have a lot of experience, but personal skills are probably one of the most important. Also having compassion, thoughtfulness and being open minded, as well as knowing how to listen to your committee members as well as the public. If you don't want to run for election, there are many appointed positions as well. In the end, people will appreciate the fact that you are willing to volunteer your time and because so few people put their necks out, it generates

unexpected support and respect.

Laura Marwill (Advisory Committee) became involved in local politics at a young age, as she helped out in her mother's election campaigns. She appreciated the companionship, the camaraderie of campaigning and

door for an appointed position on the committee. She mentioned that "It's difficult not to get involved once you become informed". Her overwhelming impression of serving on a town board is empowering. Though it can take a lot of one's time, and can sometimes be stressful, it



Panel Speakers L-R: Eileen McCracken, Hingham Town Clerk, Scott Bosworth, Chairman, Recreation Commission, Laura Marwill, Advisory Committee Member, Bruce Rubuffo, Selectman

experienced it all first hand. Ms. Marwill has always had a firmly established belief in the value of civic involvement. After returning to Hingham as an adult, she became involved in the League of Women Voters of Hingham and participated as an Observer for the Advisory Committee, which eventually helped open the

is truly a very rewarding experience.

Bruce Rubuffo (Board of Selectmen) attended Georgetown University, where his roommate was the president of the Student Council. Through his experience, he ended up turning down a Foreign

Continued from page 2....Highlights from "How to Run for Public Office Forum"

Service appointment to Karachi, Pakistan (he was newly married) and took a position with Verizon. He and his wife lived in the UK for a time and found the experience intriguing - their government is very different from ours. They settled in Hingham upon return where Mr. Rubuffo began his public service. He sat on the Zoning Board and the Industrial Planning Board. When Mr. Rubuffo decided to run for Selectman, he had a campaign advisory committee of about 7 individuals made up of all ages, to bounce ideas off of and keep him balanced. His best pieces of advice include having the ability to listen and not shoot from the hip, stay calm in all situations, having an outlet for your nerves, remembering your role in representing the town, being prepared for the unexpected, having fun, and being visible and accessible.

During the Q&A session, many other points came up which included:

All paperwork and regulations can be found in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. Some of the regulations that were discussed were 1) signs can only be on personal property, not public, and you must have the permission of the owner, 2) size of the signs is im-

portant (2' x2' is the largest), 3) there is a campaign finance form that tracks money spent and accepted during the campaign, 4) candidates are not to be within 150' from the polls

Best practices for a successful campaign include the following:

- In the beginning, focus on getting the word out to all your networks, friends, family and contacts.
- Make use of all electronic and high-tech means (i.e. – use of the internet, social networking sites, email, purchasing materials like signs, etc.).
- Being highly visible and accessible is very important.
- Hosting or attending coffees, dinners, gatherings or other events where you can meet with citizens and voters.
- Help defray costs by asking for a small donation at these events.
- Ads in the local newspaper are very expensive, so you need to have a strategy on best placement and time to post ads.
- Use town website and resources like maps of the town to help with geography and campaign strategy.
- Need to have a tough skin.
- Very important to have help in run-

ning a campaign or having a campaign committee which would include at a minimum, a chairperson and treasurer.

If you don't want to run for a position or run a campaign, there are many ways to be involved. One of them is serving in an appointed position. In order to be appointed to a committee, you need to first complete a "Talent Bank" form, which can be found on the town website as well as on the back page of the Town Warrant. Once your form has been submitted, there is usually a 15 – 20 minute interview that takes place with the Selectmen and/or Town Administrator so they can find out what your interests are as well as your talents and skills so that they might find a good match.

All in all, the workshop was an informative and wonderfully run event.

Many thanks to Kathleen Nugent who coordinated and planned the event. Great job!

Attention Members: Are Your Dues Paid for the 2009-2010 Year?

If you haven't yet paid your dues for the 2009-2010 year (June 1st through May 31st) or if you are unsure if you've paid, please contact Treasurer Marisa Costello at tmbac@comcast.net. LWVH updates membership numbers annually in the National database on January 31st and we are responsible for paying National and State dues for all members that are reported on that date. For example, if we report that 54 members are a part of our chapter, we owe dues to State and National chapters for these members, whether we have actually collected all of these membership dues or not. Thanks for helping us finalize our official membership roster, and thanks very much for supporting the League!

[Visit League of Women Voters of Hingham on Facebook.](#)

LWVH Adopts Position for Town Meeting Study

On January 13, 2010 the Board of the League voted unanimously to support the Consensus that was mailed to members the week of January 3rd. That statement reads as follows:

Position Statement for Town Meeting Study

To encourage informed, active citizen participation in Town government, The League of Women Voters of Hingham (LWVH) supports measures and opportunities to increase educational practices and facilitate more inclusive Town Meeting processes. Toward that end, we propose the following including but not limited to:

Warrant

The LWVH supports disseminating the content of the "working warrant" upon the closing date of the warrant each year to help voters follow articles through various boards' vetting processes. This includes but is not limited to:

- Making the working warrant a public document and having full disclosure of all articles being considered.

Town Meeting

The LWVH supports measures to improve the efficiency of Town Meeting and an equitable speaking process which includes but is not limited to:

- Eliminating a Town Meeting quorum

thereby allowing a timely start.

- After a welcome to all voters, an introduction by the Town Moderator of all officials on the dais and recognition of the Advisory Committee as a whole.
- Establishing a set procedural process on the floor of Town Meeting where voters can either make statements or ask questions in a timely manner. (i.e. – having designated microphones for speakers including procedural and informational questions or clarifications)
- Reducing the speaking time to less than 10 minutes the first time and less than 5 minutes the second time.

Town Meeting Information & Resources

The LWVH supports measures to publicize and post pertinent Town Meeting information to keep the public well informed. This includes but is not limited to:

- A Town Meeting link on the Hingham Town Website Homepage that provides a section on the full spectrum of information needed to educate voters in Town Meeting practices and procedures; a flow chart of how to submit an article from inception through acceptance as Warrant Article; and information regarding

the date, time and location of Town Meeting.

- Posting Town Meeting information on the LWVH website to supplement the Town's website if necessary.

Town Meeting Committee members, Julie Strehle, Victoria Milano, Connie Coleman, Eva Marx, Liza O'Reilly and Kate Boland, continue to develop a framework for the Working Warrant to hopefully be published on the Town Website in 2010, as well as the LWV of Hingham's Website. The committee is also finalizing the needed information for a "Town Meeting Resource" to be published on both Websites.

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...in the Hingham Voter!

Grow your business and support the League.

Graphics: Business card or small ad (.jpg or .pdf).

Cost: \$30 annually (4-5 newsletters in 2010).

Contact us at voter@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org .

EXTRA! EXTRA! MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

No new announcements.

Have a non-commercial announcement you'd like to share with LWVH members? Announcements can be for personal life events, or for extracurricular interests you think other LWVH members may be interested in. Send your announcements to voter@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org for inclusion in the next newsletter. Newsletters are published 4-5 times/year.

State of the State

Mark your calendars!

The League of Women Voters of Hingham will hold an All-Member State of the State on March 10, 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at the home of Marisa Costello.

State Representative Garrett Bradley and State Senator Robert Hedlund will be our guest speakers and will update us on the most current issues and topics.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF HINGHAM

Seeking New Observer Corps Participants

The League of Women Voters of Hingham is looking for new people to join the Observer Corps. Participation in the Observer Corps is an excellent way for members to learn about local issues and share this information with League members through VOTER newsletter articles and League meetings. This is often one of the most valuable services a local League can offer its members and the community. Among the town committees that are of greatest interest are the Board of Selectman, School Committee, Planning Board, and Advisory Committee. Of course, if there is a board that currently has an im-

pact on some facet of your life and you are attending or would like to attend these meetings for a few months, we would love for you to tell us about what you are learning at those meetings.

The following are some highlights of the roles and responsibilities of a participant in the Observer Corps:

- Monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community as a whole.
- Increase the League's visibility.
- Allow those unable to

attend meetings to learn about topics of interest in a more timely manner.

- Provide the observer with the knowledge and experience to participate on these boards in the future

Responsibilities:

- Inform board/committee of your attendance as a LWWH Observer.
- Attend assigned meetings.
- Take notes and deliver them to the Observer Corps coordinator in a timely manner.

- Advise the LWWH Executive Board of any action that may be in violation of League or Town bylaws.

Over the next year, our goal is to continue to grow our Observer Corps with more participants and coverage of additional boards and committees. It is a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. If you have any questions about Observer Corps or are interested in becoming part of the Observer Corps, please contact Marisa Costello at 781-875-1282 or by email at

observer-corps@hingham.ma



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HINGHAM



BECAUSE DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

You're Invited

To join the League of Women Voters of Hingham!

The League of Women Voters of Hingham is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Through participation in League projects, you will: discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community; make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests.

Become involved as much or as little as you want.

Automatically become a member of LWV of Massachusetts and LWV of the U.S.

*Receive our newsletter, the **Hingham Voter**, along with the State and National league newsletters.*

Check out our website at www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org.

Please fill out this Membership Application Form and mail with your check to:
League of Women Voters of Hingham, c/o Marisa Costello, 43 Woodlock Road, Hingham, MA 02043.



Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City, State and Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

\$50.00 one member; \$75.00 two members same household; full time student \$25.00.
Please make check payable to: **League of Women Voters of Hingham.**

Membership dues and contributions to LWV are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes; but contributions to the LWV Education Fund are deductible.