

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

March/April 2006

Hingham League Steering Committee 2006

President: Cindy Coe
Secretaries: Judy Parsons
Treasurer: Marisa Costello
Membership:
Christine Dietterich
Publicity: Jerry Elsdon
Newsletter: Julie Strehle
Advisors: Helga Jorgensen,
Catherine Salisbury

Candidates' Night Set for April 12

Hingham League of Women Voters announces its annual Candidates Night for Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., at Hingham Town Hall, third floor. The event is being organized by members Gretchen Condon and Catherine Salisbury, and will be moderated by member Palma Cortese.

Candidates in uncontested elections have been invited to begin the program with a brief statement. Then the audience will be invited to write questions for candidates run-

ning for the following three offices: Selectman (four-way race); Planning Board (1-year term) (four-way race); and Recreation Commission (two candidates). Candidates will arrive at 6:30 p.m. for instructions.

All HLWV members are encouraged to attend this event. It is a perfect way to meet the candidates and hear the issues. Members are also needed to time the candidates' answers and collect question cards. The event will be taped for rebroadcast on the local Comcast channel.

Upcoming Events

Green Study Meeting at Whole Foods

Tuesday, April 11
9:30 a.m.
(all invited)

Candidates' Night
Hingham Town Hall
Wednesday, April 12
7:00 p.m.
(all invited)

**Next Steering
Committee
Meeting**
Tuesday, May 2
7:00 p.m.
Julie Strehle's house
231 Leavitt Street
(all invited)

The League of Women Voters Invites you to hear about

GREEN CONSTRUCTION

WHAT IS GREEN ABOUT WHOLE FOODS? Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.

PLEASE JOIN US for coffee at Whole Foods at Derby Street Shoppes to learn how Whole Foods became a Green store.

- Should all new municipal buildings in Hingham be green?
- Does "green" building cost too much for our kids?
- What are the costs and benefits of making Hingham a sustainable community?

Learn from the Whole Foods example!



www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org

HLWV is happy to introduce its new website! Thanks to our funds raised last year (remember the poinsettia sale?) and the California League Easy Web tool, we have put together and "gone live" with our website. It is also linked with Hingham's town website (www.hingham-ma.com) and also with the Massachusetts LWV site (www.lwvma.org). Site statistics show that we have had **298** hits on our site since it

went live on March 8!

Information on our site includes a printable Membership Form, Calendar of Events, updates on our current Study on Green Construction, and (drumroll please...) soon a copy of our Voter newsletter! So you will be able to view the newsletter online. We are looking at ways to reduce the costs of printing a whole newsletter each month. Options include mailing

to members a one-page newsletter while putting the whole version online, or emailing members that a new Voter is available online. For those members who are not online, a complete Voter would be sent to them.

Thank you to member Lynn Cotter, who has volunteered to be our new web master, so put our website on your "favorites" and come back for updates!

Call to Annual Meeting...A Preview

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Meeting will be held this year on Wednesday, **May 24, 2006**, at 6:30 p.m. Look out for a "Call to Annual Meeting" mailing coming soon, which will include dinner details and information on the positions held by Hingham League of Women Voters.

We will meet at the Ninety-

Nine Restaurant, 428 Lincoln Street, Hingham. The program includes a presentation by the Green Study Committee, which has been studying the "green" construction of school buildings. The committee has been finding a lot of information, and will come to our Annual Meeting with answers to consensus questions, so that the member-

ship can come to a consensus on this topic.

Our guest speaker is member Marta Bush, who is an expert on green construction. She will add to our study committee's findings. It should be an informative event, so make plans to come out!

HLWV Co-Hosts Energy Meeting with AAUW

Recently, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) asked HLWV to co-host a presentation entitled, "Why Our Towns Should Establish a Long-Range Energy Committee" at the Hingham Public Library. Russell Heissner, a Hingham resident, presented a talk on the findings of a study by the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee. He is currently the Project Development Manager at Dedham's BC International Corporation.

Mr. Heissner reported that his committee recommends that the town develop a comprehensive en-

ergy policy. Instead of having a defensive policy, the town should be more proactive on its energy policy, especially since rising energy costs are hitting the town's budget. There are eight recommendations:

1. **Establish town-wide renewable energy standards** for electric power generation, as well as increase renewable energy sources for fleet vehicles, heating and stand-by power generation. Promote use of bio-diesel, and both corn-derived and biomass-derived ethanol.;
2. **Establish green building codes** to enhance energy efficiency, to lower both capital and operating costs;
3. **Establish zoning bylaws** for land use that promotes energy efficiency, conservation or alternate power generation. For industrial use of land, have guidelines in place for their location and how they use power;
4. **Establish energy performance contracting programs**, in which a third party can evaluate the energy efficiency of buildings and recommend infrastructure updates; (continued on page 6)

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Update



Join us for the

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

Council 2006

Saturday, May 20, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)*

Quincy Marriott

It's Your Environment: Take Charge!

Keynote Luncheon Speaker

Douglas Foy

Former Secretary of the Office of Commonwealth Development

Featured Panelists

Commissioner Robert Golledge

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Leise Jones

Toxics Campaign Director, New England Clean Water Action

Alan Noguee

Director, Clean Energy Program, Union of Concerned Scientists

Dr. John Warner

Director, Center for Green Chemistry, UMass – Lowell

Afternoon Workshops

Environmental Impact: What Your League Can Do

Organic Lawn Care & Gardening

Reducing Toxins for a Healthier Future

Community Preservation Act 101

Affordable Housing

LWVM Plenary Session will be held at 2:00 p.m.

*There will also be a chance for delegates to the LWVUS Convention to review convention procedures during the registration period.

Registration fee is \$48, which includes speakers, workshops, lunch, and more!

Register today by filling out the attached form and sending it to the LWVM by April 21, 2006!

For more information, please visit the LWVM's website: www.lwvma.org.

Contact Robin Rich at rrich@lwvma.org or 617-523-2999 with questions.

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters United States Update

March 29, 2006

The following statement is released by the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG:

The United States Senate failed the American people today. The Senate failed to pass real lobbying and ethics reform legislation.

As Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff was being sentenced today in one of the criminal cases brought against him, the United States Senate was choosing to ignore deep public concerns about the corruption and lobbying scandals in Washington that Abramoff symbolizes.

Our organizations issued six benchmarks for lobbying and ethics reform on January 23, 2006. Enclosed with this statement is our report card on the Senate's performance on these six benchmarks. It is not a pretty sight and not a report card that any child would like to take home to their parents.

A majority of Senators voted for lobbying and ethics legislation today that simply ignores the biggest lobbying and ethics problems in the Senate. A majority of Senators, for example, voted against legislation to address the biggest ethics problem facing the institution, the absence of a publicly credible and publicly acceptable system for enforcing the Senate ethics rules.

The defense of the current system by Senate Ethics Committee Chairman George Voinovich (R-OH) came down to the public equivalent of "Trust us. We're doing a good job. We just can't tell you what we are doing."

That is not good enough for the American people. Our organizations will continue to work for the establishment of an independent, impartial Office of Public Integrity in the Senate to help ensure that the Senate ethics rules are enforced.

The Senate lobbying bill also fails to provide any new restrictions on privately-funded travel for Members, an area of great abuse that will now continue unabated; fails to stop Members from treating corporate planes as their own private air force; and fails to stop lobbyists from financing lavish parties for Members.

The Senate lobbying bill also fails to require disclosure of numerous ways in which lobbyists are providing financial assistance for Members, such as soliciting and bundling campaign contributions for Members, making contributions to foundations and other entities controlled by Members and paying for Members' events, including conferences and retreats.

We recognize that the legislation does make improvements in a number of areas, including a ban of gifts from lobbyists, quarterly reporting by lobbyists that is searchable on the Internet, disclosure for the first time of spending on grassroots lobbying activities and disclosure for the first time of fundraisers held by lobbyists for federal candidates. This, however, does not compensate for the far greater failures of the Senate to seriously address its most important lobbying and ethics problems.

We greatly appreciate the outstanding leadership that has been provided for strong and effective lobbying and ethics reforms during this effort by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT), the Chairman and Ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and by Senators Barack Obama (D-IL), John McCain (R-AZ) and Russell Feingold (D-WI).

We very much regret that a majority of Senators did not support their efforts. The Senate has chosen to pass cosmetic, not real, lobbying and ethics legislation. The American people will not be fooled.

It's Time to Join/Renew for a year of HLWV! Membership Form 2006 – 2007

(Fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30)

Send to:

Christine Dietterich
104 Summer Street
Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____ 2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

*We need your email address so we can let you know when a new Voter newsletter is on our website

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Individual | \$50. |
| Household | \$75. (\$50, first member; \$25 second) |
| Full time student | \$25. |
| CONTRIBUTION | \$ _____ |
| PAYMENT ENCLOSED | \$ _____ |

April 2006

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND

7th Annual Online Student Essay Contest **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: OUR BILL OF RIGHTS**

FANEUIL HALL, BOSTON

Sunday, April 30, 2006

2 pm—4 pm

featuring keynote speaker

The Honorable Nancy Gertner
U.S. District Court Judge

also featuring

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**HINGHAM LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS**

231 Leavitt Street
Hingham, MA 02043

*Democracy: The more you use it,
the better it gets!*

AAUW/HLWV Energy Meeting (continued)

5. **Identify Capital Project Incentives** programs from private equity, state and federal programs;
6. **Identify Operating Incentives** from private equity, state and federal programs, which offer rebates for things such as energy efficient appliances, mechanical and ventilation systems;
7. **Establish Community Outreach Programs** to communicate benefits of conservation and renewable energy; and
8. **Establish Benchmarking Standards** that compare similar programs in other towns and municipalities in the country.

With those recommendations in hand, Heissner said, the town of Hingham is now in a position to establish a Long-Range Energy Policy Committee, which would be able to focus on development of a comprehensive energy policy for the town, and have the Light Plant actively participate in its work. The

board would be comprised of representatives from various town functions, plus a limited number of qualified, interested citizens, totaling no more than seven people. Heissner discussed with the audience that the committee could be established by the Board of Selectmen, or voted on by Town Meeting.

HLWV thanks the AAUW for setting up this event and asking us to be a part of it. It was a well-attended event with a lively question period at the end.