

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

December 2006

HLWV Steering Committee

2006—2007

President: Cindy Coe**Secretary:** Judy Parsons**Treasurer:** Marisa Costello**Membership Recruiter:**

Christine Dietterich

Publicity: Jerry Elsdon**Web Site:** Lynn Cotter**Newsletter:** Julie Strehle**Advisors:** Helga Jorgensen, Cathy Salisbury

President's Letter: Wine & Cheese Party Nets Five New Members

The Hingham League of Women Voters had a terrific turnout on October 19 for our New Member Wine & Cheese event, and we were able to sign five new members. To these new members, plus other new members who have joined in the past year, I say, "Welcome and get ready to join in the fun!" There are several ways to get involved in HLWV this spring, and this newsletter will tell you how.

First, the **Green Study Committee** continues in its pursuit to educate citizens on issues related to using Green technology in order to live in a better environment (see full Green story on page 3.) You can brush off your research and writing skills to write a short article for the newspaper on a Green topic for our "Green Corner", or take part in coordinating the Organic Lawn Care Workshop that we will host on March 17.

Another way to get involved is to join **Observer Corps**, which starts with a training session on Thursday, January 11. Observer Corps is a fantastic way to learn about various town boards by attending a series of their meetings. You will be paired up with a veteran League member who can help guide you through the meeting process, and then you will give the HLWV membership a short



Some Wine and Cheese attendees, L to R: Elizabeth Fetsko, Kathleen Nugent, Lynn Cotter, Ann Marie Schembri, and Marisa Costello

Upcoming Events

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 9
7:30 p.m.
Christine Dietterich's house

Observer Corps Training Meeting

Thursday, January 11
8:00 p.m.
Hingham Town Hall

Green Study Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 28
3:00 p.m.
Hingham Public Library

All-Member Social "State of the State" with Rep. Bradley & Senator Hedlund

Early February
Invitations to follow

update on that board in our newsletter. (See article on page 2.)

You can also take part in **Voter Education** through working on our important annual **Candidates Night**. It will be held in April, a couple of weeks before the Town Election, and you can help coordinate the event, such as handling the invitations to the candidates, scripting sample questions for the candidates, or handling the media and publicity for the event. Another Voter Education project for the spring will be to design and produce stickers to hand out at the polls on town election day that proclaim, "I Voted Today!"

Finally, you can become involved in the social aspect of HLWV, which are our periodic

all-member meetings. Our next **All-Member Meeting** will be in early February at Julie Strehle's house, and we have invited State Representative Garrett Bradley and State Senator Bob Hedlund to meet with us and give us a talk on the "State of the State". Invitations will be sent out in January. Then our final meeting of the 2006–2007 year will be held in May, at our **Annual Meeting**. We will need to select a speaker for that event and coordinate the dinner. You can become involved by helping in any small or larger part to run these events.

Think about all of these choices on how to get involved in HLWV and pick one to try!
Sincerely,
Cindy Coe
President

Observer Corps Details; Training Set for 1/11/07

In order to have the most satisfying experience in Observer Corps, you should attend the **Observer Corps Training** session on Thursday, January 11. Veteran members Jane Malme and Pat Facey will teach you how to get started on attending the meetings of the board of your choice.

Interested in finding out the latest issues facing the School Committee? What kind of building projects are on the table at the Planning Board? Does the Board of Health have issues that you would be interested in learning about more? What is the Board of Selectmen up to these days? Pick a Board that interests you, and learn at our Training how to introduce yourself and your Observer status to that Board, and how to follow and report their proceedings back to the HLWV mem-

bership. This can be a commitment for a series of several meetings, or you can get hooked and continue for as long as you'd like. You can share the job with another Observer who is interested in the same Board as you are. And we can pair you up with a veteran member who can go with you to the first meeting to help show you how it's done.

We are meeting at 8 p.m. on **January 11** at Hingham Town Hall. Look on the message board in the main lobby for our assigned meeting room. Many League members have moved on from Observer Corps status to actually serving on the Boards that they once covered!

Please RSVP to Jane Malme by email: j.jhmalme@verizon.net

Next All-Member Meeting

Many thanks go to Christine Cadegan for opening her beautiful home to our membership for the All-Member Meeting in October. It was a fun, relaxing evening, and we appreciate Christine's hospitality.

Our next All-Member Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at Julie Strehle's house on Leavitt Street. Invitations will be sent out to the membership in January. Featured speakers for the evening are State Representative Garrett Bradley and State Senator Bob Hedlund, who will give us a "State of the State". Please mark your calendar to reserve this date and come out to enjoy the company of other League members.

Contact Your Elected Officials!

Senator Kennedy

315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4543
senator@kennedy.senate.gov

Senator Kerry

304 Russell Bldg., Fl. 3
Washington D.C. 20510
202-224-2742
Senator@kerry.senate.gov

Congressman Delahunt

15 Cottage Avenue
Quincy, MA 02169
617-770-3700
In Washington:
1517 Longwood Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3111
William.Delahunt@mail.house.gov

MA State Senator Bob Hedlund

State House, Room 413F
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-1646
RHedlund@senate.state.ma.us

MA State Rep. Garrett Bradley

State House, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2120
Rep.GarrettBradley@hou.state.ma.us

HLWV Green Study Update - December 2006

The Green Study Committee continues in its mission to make Hingham a more sustainable community. Its latest meeting was held on December 17 at the Hingham Public Library, and members quickly got to work on mapping out a strategy for the next couple of months. The push for the first half of next year is education. To that end, its first activity will be to launch the Green Corner in the Hingham Journal weekly newspaper. The first article will be entitled, "Don't Trash the Holidays", and will give tips on how to recycle all of the paper and boxes that come with the holiday season, plus ways to recycle Christmas trees. The articles will also be printed in the Green section of our website, www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org.

Other planned topics for articles will include education on Green household cleaners, carpeting and floor refinishing, organic lawn care, involving your kids in Green, and paint. The articles hope to educate people, and also include "action items" which people can follow so that they can make a difference.

The HLWV Green Committee also plans to partner with other local organizations with similar goals, such as REACH (which promotes alternative energy sources), Sustainable Hingham, the Hingham Long Range Waste Disposal Committee and Old



Some Green Study Committee members at our most recent meeting. Standing, from L to R: Cindy Coe, Elizabeth Fetsko and Marta Bush. Seated, from L to R: Kate Boland, Committee Chair MJ Shultz, and Julie Strehle.

Ship Church, and will coordinate the submission of articles to the Green Corner from these organizations as well.

We have some volunteers for writing articles, but need more, so if you would like to join a friend to research and write on a Green topic for our newspaper column, please step forward! It's a great way to get involved in HLWV. Topics not yet spoken for include household cleaners and paint. Elizabeth Fetsko and Susan Boyd are coordinating the articles, and you can reach them by clicking on the Green section of our website.

The Committee is also hosting a workshop in March (tentatively scheduled for March 17, a really Green date), on Organic Lawn Care. The workshop will identify ways to maintain a "Green"

lawn (pun intended). The Committee will work to partner with a local gardening shop or business, and hopes to hold the event at Whole Foods or the Derby Street Shoppes area. More planning work will be done at the next meeting on Sunday, January 28, at 3 p.m., at the Hingham Public Library. All are invited to join!



Organic Lawn Care Workshop to be held on March 17

League of Women Voters Massachusetts Update



Judges Wanted!

FOR OUR 8th ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

*no meetings

*no mailings

*on your schedule

*runs thru March 2007

*all judging and communications happen via email

PLEASE EMAIL THE STATE LEAGUE AT judges@lwvma.org TO INDICATE YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING.

The contest's theme this year is **Making Democracy Work: Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities**. The contest began in mid-November and runs through March 16, 2007.

The contest is open to all Massachusetts students in grades 4-12. All information about the contest including rules, prizes, and essay questions can be found on the League's website www.lwvma.org.

Winners receive a US Savings bond, and the teacher or advisor of the winners will receive a small classroom educational grant. The winners and their teachers and those receiving Honorable Mention will be recognized at the awards event in historic **Faneuil Hall, Boston, on Sunday, April 29, 2007, from 2:00- 4:00 p.m. Mark this date on your calendar!** Please refer to future League Leaders Updates and the LWVM website, www.lwvma.org, for more information about the awards ceremony on April 29.

League of Women Voters United States Update

Citizens' Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles

Global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. The most recent scientific studies prove that global warming is here now and is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts.

The good news is that if we act now, and act decisively, we can stop the worst effects of global warming. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies, such as hybrids, cleanly-produced bio-fuels, and wind and solar power. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist.

To reinforce and expand on those efforts, we need federal action that triggers solutions on a national scale. U.S. businesses can and should lead the world in developing new energy technologies, but most aren't going to without the guidance of mandatory limits.

A federal limit on global warming pollution that meets the following principles is the responsible way to ensure that we protect our environment for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

1. Guarantee global warming pollution reductions, with enforceable deadlines.

Scientists say that we must begin to significantly reduce our emissions from today's levels in the next 10 years and cut them by 60-80% by 2050 if we are to avert the worst consequences of global warming. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of global warming pollution. Cars, trucks and SUVs run a close second. Pollution from these sources is rising.

2. Promote clean and efficient sources of energy.

We can start using a number of low- and zero-pollution options immediately. The cleanest, fastest, and safest way to move away from dangerous sources of energy is to use energy more efficiently in our homes and vehicles. Energy efficiency reduces pollution and saves consumers money. Renewable energies like wind, solar and cleanly-produced bio-fuels reduce pollution, reduce reliance on oil and create new economic opportunities for farmers and small businesses.

3. Immediate action is required. If we wait, it will be too late.

We must begin to significantly reduce our emissions within 10 years if we are to limit global warming to 3.6° Fahrenheit and avoid the most dangerous impacts of global warming. The window of opportunity is closing, and the time for action is now.

In 2005 the U.S. Senate recognized that global warming is real and that the time had come for strong federal policy. As the impacts of global warming become more pervasive, it is clear that we cannot afford more delay. Our health and environment demand it.

The League of Women Voters has joined with other organizations calling for immediate action to curb the worst effects of global warming. To view the list of organizations and get more information, go to www.lwv.org.

HLWV Membership Form 2006 – 2007

Hingham League of Women Voters

***Please renew your annual membership by 12/31/06,
so we can count you on the State and National lists!!***

Send to:
Marisa Costello
43 Woodlock Road
Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____

2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

*We need your email address so we can alert you from time to time about a League meeting
or 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	\$ _____

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We are delighted to get help from our Members. Below is a list of activities in need of your help. Please check or circle any items with which you can assist:

- Voter Education
(Help run Candidates Night, report on town boards with Observer Corps, Register voters, Design the "I Voted Today" stickers)

- Advocacy (Green Study Committee)

- Social Event Planning (Plan All-Member meetings, including Annual Meeting)

**HINGHAM LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS**

231 Leavitt Street
Hingham, MA 02043

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

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The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles.

- **Voters Service/Citizen Education**: We present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues
- **Action/Advocacy**: We are also nonpartisan, but, after study, we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.